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## AN EXPERIMENT WITH RANDOM NUMBERS

BY A. T. ORAM

A remarkable statement appeared in an article in *Nature* for 25 July 1953 (Vol. 172, p. 154); the author was Mr G. Spencer Brown and the statement read as follows :

... I have evidence, also to be published shortly, that statistically significant results similar to those of psychical research are obtainable simply by making selections in published tables of random numbers as if the tables were themselves the data of a psychical research experiment.

It seems that the evidence referred to has not been published but the author has, nevertheless, made further critical observations on somewhat similar lines from time to time since July 1953, in broadcast talks and in lectures. It has therefore become desirable to have available the detailed results of a reasonably comprehensive test of the 'scores' to be obtained from published random numbers, and with the help of some 55 members of the Society such a test has now been carried out.

The longest readily available series of random numbers is that prepared by M. G. Kendall and B. Babington Smith.<sup>1</sup> It consists of 100,000 random digits, printed in 100 blocks of 1,000, prepared and tested for randomness by the authors in rows, across the

<sup>1</sup> *Tables of Random Sampling Numbers*, Cambridge University Press, 1939.

pages. Their test relating to the frequencies of occurrence of the digits applies, however, equally well in whatever order they may be taken. As each block of 1,000 is set out in 20 pairs of columns, each column containing 25 digits, and this layout lends itself to the type of experiment referred to by Spencer Brown, the digits in the first column of a pair have been taken to represent the guesses in a card-guessing experiment, and those in the second column the actual values of the cards. The 'scores' have been recorded on two separate bases, in Series A on a comparison between the 'guess' and the 'target', and in Series B on a comparison between the 'guess' and the 'target' next to come, being the equivalent of plus-one displacements in ESP experiments. The whole book has been used in each case, so that there has been no selection and as far as possible no personal factors have been allowed to affect the results.

Recording the scores from the printed pages of the book is comparatively simple, but it becomes very tedious if continued for long periods. For this reason the task involved in checking the scores for 50,000 pairs in Series A and a further 48,000 pairs in Series B (one is lost in each column of 25 in scoring for Series B) was divided into 25 sections, each covering four blocks of 1,000 digits. Fifty members of the Society were asked, by post, if they would each complete two record sheets (A and B) prepared for the purpose. In this way the ground was covered twice, so as to provide a check on the results by comparing the corresponding record sheets and by checking and correcting any scores that were recorded differently by the two persons.

The results are fully in agreement with the generally accepted theory of probability, and they show no tendency to follow the pattern of scoring that arises in successful ESP experiments, except to the extent that there is a slight decline effect, shown in tables below. The overall scores for the whole experiment are as follows :

	SERIES A	SERIES B (With plus-one displacement)
1. Number of Tests	50,000	48,000
2. Mean Chance Expectation	5,000	4,800
3. Actual Scores	5,029	4,735
4. Deviations from Mean Chance Expectation	+29	-65
5. Standard Deviations	67	66

A more detailed statement of the scoring is set out below. Mean Chance Expectation for the score in one column of 25 (or, in Series B, 24) is 2.5 (or 2.4), the actual scores ranging from 0 to 10; the frequency of occurrence of the various possible scores



for the 2,000 columns in each series has been compared with the mean chance expectations for those frequencies and it is shown below that the actual frequencies obtained differ but little, and certainly not significantly, from the calculated or theoretical expectations.

SERIES A			SERIES B		
Score	Actual Frequency	Mean Chance Expectation	Actual Frequency	Mean Chance Expectation	
0	141	143.6	163	159.5	
1	380	398.8	456	425.4	
2	555	531.8	523	543.6	
3	463	453.0	430	442.9	
4	264	276.8	264	258.4	
5	120	129.2	120	114.8	
6	53	47.9	27	40.4	
7	19	14.4	12	11.6	
8	3	3.6	4	2.7	
9	1	0.9	1	0.7	
10	1		0		
over 10	0		0		
	<hr/> 2,000	<hr/> 2,000.0	<hr/> 2,000	<hr/> 2,000.0	
Value of chi-squared	5.3		8.5		
Probability for such a value	.6		.3		

NOTE. In calculating chi-squared the values for scores of 7 and over have been pooled in each case.

A further test of the figures is obtained by noting the cumulative scores at a number of stages from the beginning to the end of each series. This experiment, for instance, might have been designed so as to use only the first half of the table or some other portion of it, and it is of interest to know at least whether any sequence of columns, starting from the beginning, gives a significant deviation from a chance score. For this purpose the scores in each series have been recorded, in the first place in groups of 500 tests (480 for Series B) up to 10,000 (9,600), and then in groups of 1,000 (960) to the end, giving the score at 60 points in each series. At no point in either series does the cumulative score even approach a significant deviation from mean chance expectation. The highest values of *t* (or the 'critical ratio') are as follows :

HIGHEST VALUES OF <i>t</i> AFTER <i>n</i> TESTS		
	<i>n</i>	<i>t</i>
Series A	44,000	1.03 (+)
Series B	12,480	1.19 (+)
	13,440	1.03 (+)
	34,560	1.18 (-)

At each of the other 115 points in the cumulative scoring of the two series the deviation from mean chance expectation is less than one standard deviation.

In some experiments in card-guessing there has apparently been found a significant decline effect in the scoring as an individual continues to guess the cards. In some cases it is claimed that there are decline effects within columns or sheets, as well as within the whole series, while different parts of columns or sheets may show results that differ significantly between themselves. The question as to whether there are substantial overall declines within either of the two series of the present experiment has been sufficiently covered in the paragraph above, where it has been shown that the cumulative scores have kept within close limits of the mean chance expectations throughout, but declines and other special effects within the record sheets remain to be dealt with.

### TEST FOR DECLINE EFFECTS

#### SERIES A

	1	COLUMNS		4	Totals	Mean Chance Expecta- tions	Devia- tions	Stan- dard Dev's
	2	3						
<i>Sub-Groups</i>								
1	259	246	271	265	1,041	1,000	+41	30
2	269	251	261	224	1,005		+ 5	
3	257	263	257	243	1,020		+20	
4	231	264	251	226	972		-28	
5	251	251	246	243	991		- 9	
Totals	1,267	1,275	1,286	1,201	5,029	5,000	+29	67
M.C.E.	1,250				5,000			
Dev's	+17	+25	+36	-49	+29			
S.D.	33.5				67			

#### SERIES B

1	251	283	225	240	999	960	+39	29.4
2	246	247	249	229	971		+11	
3	226	219	237	220	902		-58	
4	242	262	203	218	925		-35	
5	253	233	222	230	938		-22	
Totals	1,218	1,244	1,136	1,137	4,735	4,800	-65	66
M.C.E.	1,200				4,800			
Dev's	+18	+44	-64	-63	-65			
S.D.	32.9				66			

#### SERIES A AND B TOGETHER

1	510	529	496	505	2,040	1,960	+80	42
2	515	498	510	453	1,976		+16	
3	483	482	494	463	1,922		-38	
4	473	526	454	444	1,897		-63	
5	504	484	468	473	1,929		-31	
<hr/>								
Totals	2,485	2,519	2,422	2,338	9,764	9,800	-36	94
M.C.E.	2,450				9,800			
Dev'ns	+35	+69	-28	-112	-36			
S.D.	47				94			



## CHI-SQUARED TESTS ON THE DATA SET OUT ABOVE

	Degrees of Freedom		Series A	Series B	Series A and B Together
The 20 figures in the body of each table	19	$\chi^2$ P	13.6 .8	26.6 .1	23.4 .2
The Column totals	3	$\chi^2$ P	3.5 .3	7.8 .05	7.8 .05
The Row totals	4	$\chi^2$ P	2.8 .6	6.2 .19	6.5 .16

The data have therefore been examined for aggregate decline (or other) effects (i) within, and (ii) between, each of the four record sheet columns. Three tables are set out above, showing the results for Series A and B, separately and together.

Each column in the tables summarises the scores in the corresponding column of all the relevant record sheets, and each row shows the scores for one fifth (i.e., 4 entries out of 20) of the columns, in the corresponding position, from top to bottom. For instance, the figure 263 in the first table is the aggregate of the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th scores (for the 17th and 18th to the 23rd and 24th columns of the printed random numbers) in the second column of each of the 25 record sheets in Series A.

It will be observed that the value of chi-squared for the column totals of Series B is rather high, and that  $P = .05$ . This chi-squared test is, however, not altogether fair, for two reasons. In the first place it does not take account of the progression of the signs—the very essence of a decline effect—which in this case must be taken as increasing the weight of evidence for a decline effect. In the second place, on the other hand, we must not lose sight of the fact that four independent tests have been applied for rows and columns of the first and second tables, and that if we take sufficient independent tests we shall almost certainly come across results which, considered alone, would appear to be significant.

The order of the 100 columns in the record sheets does not correspond to that of the 100 blocks of 1,000 digits in the printed book of random numbers, because the unbacked sheets in the book (blocks 1 and 2, 11 and 12, etc.) were sent in pairs with the first five record sheets and the backed sheets (blocks 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, etc.) consecutively, one with each of the remaining twenty. This order was followed because of the layout of the book, although other orders could have been adopted, but once we depart from that in the book there are a great many orders which are at least theoretically possible, and some of these would presumably produce unusual results on comparing the aggregate column scores. It so happens that if the data are re-cast in the 'book order' the apparent declines between columns disappear. The details are as follows :

	COLUMNS				TOTALS
	1	2	3	4	
Series A	1,243	1,243	1,310	1,233	5,029
Series B	1,185	1,219	1,169	1,162	4,735

The values for chi-squared are 3 and 1.6 and the values of  $P$  .4 and .6, with three degrees of freedom.

The analysis of the column data into the five rows is not affected by the order of the columns.

It is unfortunate that this investigation of the possibility of finding decline effects within the data was only started after the completion of the first draft of this report on the rest of the data, and there has not been time to look further into the background of the results obtained in this section. It is hoped to do this, although there seems to be little reason to suspect that there is any substance in these apparent but hardly significant declines.

#### THE POSSIBILITY OF UNDETECTED ERRORS

It will be noted that although all record sheets have been prepared, independently, in duplicate and checked one against the other, there remains the possibility that, here and there, each person may have made the same error. The most likely frequency of such undetected errors can be estimated for each pair of record sheets, taking into account the actual number of observed errors in each, and making an allowance for the fact that of all errors only those of a similar nature, occurring together (e.g., a score that is too small by 1, the commonest type of error), can give rise to an undetected error. From such estimates it is clear that the undetected errors are of but little importance.

In Series A, however, the three sets of record sheets (i.e., 3 out of 25) with the highest numbers of detected errors were checked throughout, in order to eliminate the most likely sources of undetected errors in that series; the result was to add only 3 to the total score. Further checking on these lines would presumably produce relatively smaller adjustments, because the numbers of detected errors on the remaining record sheets are smaller, indicating a greater accuracy in their preparation.

In Series B only one set was checked right through, no previously undetected errors being found in that set. As, however, the total score in Series B is below mean chance expectation, and as it is demonstrated below that the effect of any undetected errors would almost certainly be to add to the score, they would merely reduce, slightly, the existing negative deviation. For this reason it has not been considered worth while at this stage to put any further check on the scores in Series B.



## BRIEF DETAILS AS TO ERRORS MADE IN THE SCORING

Out of 100 record sheets, each with 80 separate column-scores, there were three that contained so many errors that it appeared that special circumstances must have applied. In several other cases scores were wrong for an obvious reason (e.g., a transposition) that did not amount to a mere error in scoring. In the details that follow the three record sheets and the special errors have been left out and the apparently genuine errors in scoring have been analysed.

The errors consisted predominantly of those understating the true score by 1. Out of a total of 371 errors only 16 involved an overstatement, and of these 16, 4 were by one person, on one record sheet in Series B (2 entered, when it should have been 1, four times). A further 3 of the 16 were by another person, the balance of 9 being spread between 9 participants.

The types of error may be summarised as follows :

True Score	Series A		Series B	
Understated by 1	147	86%	168	84%
"      2	18	11%	19	9%
"      3	0		2	
"      4	1		0	
Overstated by 1	2	3%	10	7%
"      2	2		2	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	170	100%	201	100%
	<hr/>		<hr/>	

The incidence of errors at different levels of true column-scores has been calculated ; details are set out below.

*Error Rates (a) Per 1,000 Occurrences of each True Column-Score and  
(b) Per 1,000 Individual Scores*

True Column-Score	Series A		Series B	
	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
0	0	—	6	—
1	10	10	32	32
2	32	16	47	23
3	46	15	54	18
4	105	26	83	21
5	96	19	113	23
6 and over	81	13	92	14
All scores	44	18	51	23

From personal experience in scoring the figures it appears that as the score per column becomes larger one is confronted with (i) more to remember, per column, but, (ii) on the average shorter intervals between reviving the memory, by adding to the score. In addition to these memory problems there is straightforward missing, and there seems to be no trend in columns (b) above to

suggest that there is any powerful factor at work beyond this simple missing of items.

The average error rate represented by the 371 errors referred to above, taking into account the fact that the scoring was done twice, but that three sheets were left out for the data in this section on errors, works out at  $371/18,932$  or just below 2 per cent.

The foregoing details relating to errors have been set out in case they may be of some value as a guide to the probable error patterns in any other experiments; for the present exercise all these errors have been corrected.

#### FURTHER DETAILS RELATING TO PROCEDURE

The following notes on procedure are in amplification of the outline in the opening paragraphs.

(i) The names of the participants were selected by Miss E. M. Horsell, in consultation with Mrs K. M. Goldney.

(ii) Participants were not informed of the object of the experiment.

(iii) A letter, signed by Mrs Goldney and by A.T.O., together with a sheet or sheets cut from a book of the random numbers, and two record sheets, were sent to each participant.

(iv) In sending out the sets of digits, the addressed envelopes were sorted into London and Provincial groups and the same set of figures was as far as possible sent to two persons, one from each group, or at least living at a distance from each other.

(v) There had been no prior enquiry and it was to be expected that some of the recipients of the letter and other documents would, for various reasons, find it inconvenient or impossible to help. In fact the response was excellent; without any 'reminders' the results were as follows:

	<i>Sets of Record Sheets</i>
Returned satisfactorily completed	42
Returned completed, but on a wrong basis	1
Returned not completed	2
Not returned	<u>5</u>
	50

(vi) Further members were asked to help with the 8 sets (the 1, 2, and 5 above) that remained to be scored, and all in this second circulation were 'Returned Satisfactorily Completed'.

(vii) All checking and correcting was done by A.T.O.

(viii) The original data can be seen, by arrangement, at the offices of the Society.

(ix) In the letter that was sent out it was explained that the scoring and the summary should not take more than about an hour. Several participants wrote to the effect that it took con-



siderably longer. The original estimate had been based on two short timed runs, but subsequently, in view of these comments, several sheets were completed by A.T.O. in connection with the checking and each section of the task was timed accurately. In each case they were completed within the rate of one hour per set and with no more than average errors. In fairness, however, to those members who made this comment, the estimate of one hour did not make any allowance for checking the scores. One set of forms was returned with no errors and six had only one error, out of the first circulation of 50 sets; the additional trouble taken by the members who completed them has made considerably easier the task of checking.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

I am most grateful to Mrs Goldney for her help in the planning stages of this experiment. It could not, however, have been carried out without the kind help of so many members of the Society. It has been quite impractical to write and thank each one, but I would ask them to accept this expression of appreciation of all that they have done. The work was dull, but now and then we need, particularly in view of certain criticisms, to have a simple factual reminder that our statistical methods, when tried out in the absence of any possible influence from psi phenomena, do give reliable 'chance' results. Here we have 98,000 trials and except for the possibility of a slight decline effect, which is probably not statistically significant, they show chance results in each way that they have been tested. All the figures have been included and all tests made upon the results have been reported here.

### THE YELLOW PATCHES

#### A COLLECTIVE HALLUCINATION

THE following account, dated 24 March 1954, was sent to the Society by a member, Mr Denis Chesters, who lives in Brighton, Sussex.

I think that the following personal experience, insignificant though it may appear to be, may be of some interest to those engaged in psychical research. The facts are as follows:

On Sunday the 27 December, 1953 I motored to Newhaven harbour with a friend (Miss M. P. Crowley who lives at Rottingdean, who shared the experience I am now telling and who confirms the contents of this letter) arriving there a few minutes after 11 a.m. We stopped the car a few feet from the edge of the harbour wall which was about 10 feet above the sea level at that time. Along the edge of the wall are white posts about 3' 6" high with strands of wire affording some protection to

those using the promenade. We had been there on many occasions before. When we arrived Miss Crowley left the car to get a better view of the cross-channel ship (Newhaven to Dieppe) which was about a mile at sea. I remained seated in the driving seat, with that door open, facing the sea. Miss Crowley was standing within a few feet of me. Suddenly she said to me 'the lower part of your face is all yellow'. I looked in the driving mirror and found that it was so. She then said 'your hand is yellow'. I looked at my hand and found that it was so but only up to my wrist, which Miss Crowley confirmed was the case. I then remarked to her that a side of her face was yellow and that she had a yellow patch on her coat. The patch was circular. We both examined it and found that it did not change shape and the colour emitted remained constant. The patch remained in the same position, relative to the coat, while she moved. When I moved my hand (it was only my left hand) the colour neither disappeared nor travelled up my arm. The light, for that reason, could not have been reflection. The colour did not follow the movement of the eye. To our further amazement (we both observed and remarked upon it together) the white posts, for as far a distance as we could see, had become yellow from the base up to about half their height. There was a clear line of demarcation between white and yellow. The surface of the promenade at the base was normal. After a little more than a minute the yellow disappeared almost instantaneously. It was impossible to say whether the yellow on my hand, on our faces, on the coat or on the posts disappeared first. During the experience our environment was otherwise unchanged.

We agreed that if either of us saw any colour, on our return journey, which resembled the shade of yellow we had seen, we would tell each other. We passed an advertisement on the side of the road and we both agreed that the colour closely resembled the colour we had seen. The colour was a bright canary yellow. Unfortunately, there was no 'independent' third party sufficiently near to witness what would appear to have been a phenomenon of a hallucinatory nature. We had not been discussing anything which was likely to suggest what we saw and we were agreed (to the best of our recollection) that we had not been thinking of anything nor seen anything which was likely to suggest what we saw. We have returned on several occasions to the same position, on the same day and at the same time, in an endeavour to recapture our experience, but without success. Immediately on our return we committed to writing what we had seen, in considerable detail and without collaboration. It should be remembered, however, that we discussed, as might be expected, our mutual experience in some detail and at some length during our return journey. The colour yellow is of no significance to either of us. If the phenomenon is regarded as premonitory, the premonition, as yet, has not been fulfilled.

In conclusion, I would like to make the following observations :

1. The phenomenon was accompanied by no ill effects.
2. We were both in good health.



3. Our sight was otherwise unaffected.
4. The sun was shining but there was a slight mist. The sun was not bright and neither of us had been dazzled.
5. As I have said, the colour did not follow the movement of the eye, but remained stationary. When the surface moved, the colour moved with it. There was no evidence of reflection.
6. It is, perhaps, interesting to observe that the colour on my face was visible in the driving mirror.

[Signed] DENIS CHESTERS

In independent answers to questions addressed to them individually, Mr Chesters and Miss Crowley have provided the following additional information. The notes which they each wrote immediately after their return from Newhaven, and which the Editor has examined, were written between 12.15 and 1 p.m. at Mr Chesters's flat. (They stopped for some coffee shortly after their experience and before their return to Brighton.) The patches of yellow which they saw appear to have been identical, except that Miss Crowley stated in her notes that 'I saw a (roughly) round patch on the upper part of cliffs behind the car. D. was facing the other way and I didn't remark on it until the drive home'. Mr Chesters also mentions this. Miss Crowley was wearing a camel-hair coat. The yellow which they saw in the advertisement on the way home was the background to the words 'Lyons Cakes' printed in dark blue. Neither percipient had taken or was taking any medicine or sedatives before or at the time of the experience. (This question was asked because hallucinations of colour changes and colour patches are described in connexion with certain toxic conditions, especially bromide poisoning.) Miss Crowley's contemporary notes include the statements 'Both normal eyesight and not wearing glasses', and 'Both tested by staring up at the sun and then looking away to see if the yellow would show again. No result'.

Mr Chesters first mentioned the experience on 7 March in a talk at Malvern which he gave on psychical research at the request of the Society; Miss Crowley mentioned it to her mother some time after it had occurred. Both remarked, in reply to this question, that one has to select those to whom such an experience is related—a view which will be readily understood by those engaged in psychical research. Mr Chesters concludes a letter to the Editor with this remark: 'Speaking for myself, there is no doubt in my mind that I "saw" what I have said. I would be prepared to say what I have on oath.'

From the evidence, Mr Chesters and Miss Crowley appear to have experienced a collective hallucination, a notable feature of which was the congruity of detail—the same shade of yellow, the

same sudden onset and disappearance, and the same areas affected (with one exception noted above). In that it did not correspond with or symbolise any event which was at the time unknown to them but of which they subsequently became aware, it was not veridical. On the other hand, one cannot say whether the predominant feature of the experience—the yellow colour—possessed an unconscious significance for one or both of them. A psycho-analytical inquiry might have thrown some light on this.

Collective hallucinations reported to the Society are, naturally enough, usually those which appear to contain a veridical element. It is possible that experiences of this nature which are not manifestly veridical may occur more frequently than is commonly thought. It is fortunate that the present case involved two people who not only realized its interest but were aware of the importance of the evidential aspect. In the latter connexion it may be noted that Mr Chesters is a solicitor and that Miss Crowley comes from a legal family. We are much indebted to them for the care with which they observed and recorded their experience, and for their willing submission to so many questions concerning it.

## DR GELEY'S REPORTS ON THE MEDIUM EVA C.

BY RUDOLF LAMBERT

TRANSLATED BY AVA NANGIE

THE history of the medium Eva C. (Marthe Béraud) from about 1904 to 1914 is known to the members of the S.P.R. through the excellent account by Mrs Salter (at that time Miss Verrall) which was published in Volume xxvii of *Proceedings* (p. 333 ff.) in 1914. Mrs Salter did not reach a definite decision on the authenticity of the phenomena—indeed, she doubted whether any solution was possible unless Eva C. could be induced to accept more stringent conditions.

A positive solution to the problem appeared to many to have been reached when Dr Gustave Geley delivered his lecture 'Sur la physiologie dite supranormale' at the Collège de France in 1918 which was published shortly afterwards. In it Geley reported on several very convincing and striking observations with Eva C., which he also repeated in his books *De l'Inconscient au Conscient* (Alcan, 1919) and *L'Ectoplasmie et la Clairvoyance* (Alcan, 1924). I quote from the latter book the two best of these apparently well-evidenced observations.

Here is an example taken from my notebook: a cord of white substance, about the width of two fingers, descends from Eva's mouth



to her knees ; before our eyes this ribbon takes on a great variety of shapes : sometimes it spreads out like a wide piece of perforated membranous fabric (mesh), with gaps and swellings ; sometimes it is all gathered up together and grows narrow, then it billows out and is finally stretched out once more. Here and there appear extensions from the main part, like pseudopods, which sometimes for several seconds look like fingers or sketchy hands, but which then return to the mass of substance. Finally the cord draws itself together and hangs down over Eva's knees ; then the end rises, leaves the medium and comes towards me. I notice that the end is thickening, as if it were swelling with a terminal bud which spreads out in the form of a perfectly modelled hand. I touch this hand. It seems quite normal ; I can feel the bones and the fingers with their nails. Then the hand contracts, gets smaller and disappears at the end of the cord. The cord moves about, then withdraws and re-enters the medium's mouth (p. 201).

### Second example :

Suddenly a head appears, about 75 cm. (30 inches) from Eva's head, above and behind her. It is a well-formed man's head of normal size showing the usual reliefs. The top of the head and the forehead are perfectly materialised. The forehead is wide and high, the hair stubbly and thick, either auburn or black. Below the brows the contours are uncertain and only the top of the head and the forehead can be seen clearly.

The head disappears for a moment behind the curtain, then reappears as before, but the incompletely materialised face is masked by a band of white substance. I stretch out my hand and slip my fingers through the bushy hair and feel the bones of the skull . . . a moment later everything had disappeared (p. 202).

Mr E. J. Dingwall comments as follows on the latter incident (*Proc. S.P.R.*, xxxii, 317) :

Unfortunately Dr Geley does not give the necessary details for us to be able to understand the precise conditions which were obtaining when the above phenomenon took place. It is clear that the head was not perfectly formed except in its upper part, and this Dr Geley was able to feel and even press with his fingers. How this is to be accounted for on the hypothesis of fraud I do not know, unless we assume that the observers are incapable of any accurate observation at all.

It is true that Geley's communications were already giving cause for reflection. With regard to the control of Eva's hands Geley says : (*L'Ectoplasmie et la Clairvoyance*, p. 198) : 'Her hands always remained in sight and were held outside the curtains.'

This description of hand control gave Mr Dingwall the opportunity to make the following downright refutation (*Proc. S.P.R.*, xxxiv, 332 n) : 'An examination of his [Dr Geley's] accompanying photographs shows that in the only *four* which show *both* hands, in *one* only is *one* hand held!' (Compare Figs. 22, 23, 27, and 34

in Geley's book.) It appears to me that both of Eva's hands are also visible in a fifth photograph (Fig. 38), but again only *one*, the left, is lightly controlled. It is very striking that, in this Fig. 38, Eva's right hand has two rings on it, whereas in Fig. 37 which, it is alleged, was taken an instant before, Eva's right hand is ringless, from which it follows that after his sittings Geley was not always sure of the sequence of his photographs and sometimes fixed their order later on arbitrarily, and probably even attached the pictures from several sittings to the report of a *single* sitting.

This inexactitude shows how little value can be placed on Geley's assertions. In his first two publications in 1918 and 1919 Geley gives no reports of single sittings and the observations made at them, but only a comprehensive report from which the two incidents quoted were taken. This kind of presentation is justifiable in scientific work where results can be tested by others at any time: but in so rare and questionable a matter as materialisations, where the data cannot be tested by other workers on account of the rarity of good mediums, such a comprehensive report does not meet strict scientific demands.

Subsequently, to remedy this fault, Geley published in his third work in 1924 (*L'Ectoplasmie et la Clairvoyance*) 'a detailed account of the chief sittings held in my laboratory, with the photographs referring to them' (p. 205). But these eight reports are extremely disappointing, since they contain hardly any information about controls, lighting, or the actual width of opening in the cabinet curtains. In all eight reports, with regard to controls, the statement is made: 'the usual control and precautions'. This meagre information is supplemented in only three reports by incidental remarks about the control of Eva's hands and knees. As to lighting, 'strong red light' is mentioned in the first sitting (11 January 1918), 'red light' in the second sitting (15 January 1918), while in the other six reports no mention is made of the lighting; yet, in order to pass judgment on the exactitude of Geley's observations, everything hangs on the strength of the light as well as on the width of opening in the cabinet curtains, but nothing is said about this latter point in five of the eight reports. In the second report (15 January 1918) it is stated right at the beginning that 'the curtains remain half-open'. One cannot discover in any of the reports what exactly is meant by 'half-open'. Towards the middle of the seventh report (8 March 1918) he says: 'Eva was visible through the aperture in the half-open curtains'. Right at the beginning of the eighth report (11 March 1918) he states: 'throughout this sitting the curtain remained half-open.' As this could not be foreseen at the beginning of the sitting, one is forced



to the conclusion that these reports must sometimes only have been put together some hours or days after the sitting. Since Geley never mentions the presence of a note-taker and gives no clear indication of time, there can be no doubt that he did not dictate these reports at the sitting, as was the case at the S.P.R. sittings with Eva (*Proc. S.P.R.*, xxxii). In view of the proved unreliability of Geley's memory, what then is the scientific value of the eight reports, six of which may be explained by the regurgitation hypothesis, as in four of the reports a materialisation disappeared into Eva's mouth, while in two others a materialisation came out of her mouth?

Since the unreliability of Geley's methods and those of other investigators of Eva had gradually become more and more clear to me, it was no wonder that I went to the Third International Congress on Psychical Research in Paris at the end of September 1927 in a sceptical frame of mind towards Eva's materialisations. There I met Count Perovsky-Petrovo-Solovovo, and learnt from him that Mme Bisson, Eva's patron, had been excluded from the French Committee of the Congress, presumably because certain of Dr Osty's discoveries amongst Geley's literary remains pointed to Mme Bisson's fraudulent co-operation in Eva's materialisations. He knew nothing more about these discoveries. At the first opportunity I told Dr Osty what Count Perovsky had said and asked him if it were true. Dr Osty was evasive but I told him that his attitude confirmed Perovsky's information in the main, whereupon he invited me to visit him the following day at the Institut Métapsychique where he would show me the documents, but only if I promised him not to reveal anything about it outside and especially not to Count Perovsky, whom he considered to be a most dangerous 'negativist'. As I wanted to know the truth about Eva C., I gave this promise reluctantly. When I went to see Osty at the Institute the following morning he showed me several stereoscopic photographs from among Geley's papers. One could distinguish clearly that the respective materialisations were artificially attached to Eva's hair, partly by means of Eva's hair, which sometimes also had to represent the materialisation's hair, and partly by means of threads or wires, which Eva's adherents would doubtless have claimed as also having been materialised. However that may be, the appearance of these pictures was highly suspicious and shocking. One can easily envisage how certain materialisations could have been fastened to Eva's hair from the photographs published by Geley in *L'Ectoplasmie et la Clairvoyance* (38, 40, 42, 43, 44); but only in the stereoscopic photographs can the artificial fastening be clearly distinguished. Like Osty I could

not avoid the conclusion that this was a case of grotesque fraud ; and, when I look back on it, I am still almost completely convinced that these materialisations photographed by Geley are fraudulent.

Osty also told me that he wanted to publish his discovery. As, however, Richet and Schrenck-Notzing protested energetically against it and M. Jean Meyer, a militant spiritualist, who financed the Institut Métapsychique, also forcibly demanded the concealment of the scandal, Osty had to give up the idea of publishing his discovery. But, by exerting a certain amount of pressure, he did at least manage to have Eva's patron, Mme Bisson, excluded from the French Congress Committee, whereupon she absented herself from the Congress.

It may be asked why I was so shocked by Osty's communication when only a few years before I had been so enthusiastic about Eva C. on account of Schrenck's books and Geley's work. The chief reason is that in Geley's book no mention is made of details, such as are described in Schrenck-Notzing's main book on Eva C., making it very difficult to accept the occurrences as genuine ; now I had found that Geley had merely suppressed the suspicious particulars. In the meantime I had had plenty of reason to doubt Schrenck's scientific integrity also.

In his full report of the Third International Congress on Psychical Research in Paris, published in the journal *XX<sup>e</sup> Siècle* in Brussels at the end of 1927, Count Perovsky deduces from Osty's discovery, so far as it was known to him, the involvement of Mme Bisson, and Count Klinckowstroem makes the same suggestion more emphatically in a paper in the third volume of the *Zeitschrift für kritischen Okkultismus*, No. 2. But this inference misses the real point. Anyone who considers the whole thing to be fraudulent—in spite of the astounding fact that over a period of many years no materials for the production of her materialisations could be found on Eva, although a thorough search was often made before and after sittings—will certainly consider it very probable that Mme Bisson, who was present at all the sittings, was not only Eva's protector but also her accomplice. As, however, Osty's discovery throws no really new light on Eva's phenomena for the attentive reader of Schrenck's work *Materialisations-phänomene*—for Schrenck had published very similar, very suspicious pictures and commented on them with surprising frankness—so, in the main, no stronger suspicion attaches to Mme Bisson after Osty's discovery than at the time of Schrenck's publications.

On the other hand, Osty's discovery completely shakes one's faith in the credibility of Geley's already questionable reports. If Geley did not notice the obvious and highly suspicious construc-



tion of numerous materialisations in Eva's hair in the very clear stereoscopic photographs, then he was 'incapable of any accurate observation at all'. If, however, he did notice this very suspicious circumstance but never mentioned it in his three publications about Eva C., then he shows that he was determined, whatever the reason, to suppress anything which might cause his readers to doubt the credibility of his results.

In view of the worthlessness of Geley's testimony, how should we now pronounce on the two statements quoted on pp. 380-1, which previously sounded so convincing? First, it is striking that amongst the reports of eight sittings published by Geley in 1924 there is no account of those sittings in which Geley is supposed to have observed the two unusual phenomena; the names of witnesses are not even known. Three possible explanations of these two statements are available:

(1) The reports give a faithful account of what was observed by all the sitters, apart from certain displacements due to their different positions, and of what would also have been recorded by ciné-photography during the sitting. If this were so, many of Eva's phenomena were probably genuine.

(2) Geley only inserted in his reports a part of what he actually observed; indeed, he consciously and intentionally embellished his reports so as to afford the greatest support to his dynamic-psychical philosophy.

(3) Geley had a psychical defect—such a thirst for marvels that he entirely yielded to the temptation to take a substantial, if unconscious, part in their production. I think it likely that the development of many materialisations, alleged to have taken place under Geley's direct observation, was in fact interrupted by repeated closing of the curtains, which allowed Eva to prepare her formations undisturbed, so that Geley, who had worked himself up into the requisite state of creative, fantastic expectancy, was able to imagine he witnessed independent developing materialisations. In his enthusiasm Geley would have considered the frequent closing of the curtains, if he had even noticed it, as so immaterial that he might pass it over in his reports, just as he did the frequent fastening of materialisations to Eva's hair, as if they were trifling incidents. Geley's attitude may have been further complicated by the state of joyful expectancy in which he viewed and sometimes photographed the lifeless structures which Eva produced behind scarcely opened curtains in moderate red light. The hallucinatory effect of skilful suggestions from Eva or Mme Bisson would then have caused him to see the materialisations

in the more perfect form in which he described them in his statements quoted at the beginning. This would be quite possible in a man with a strong visualising predisposition. It is also possible that in his carelessly compiled reports he unconsciously worked into *one* experience the incidents of many sittings.

In view of the alarming deficiencies in his method of reporting, we can scarcely credit the first of these three explanations of Geley's statements, especially as he notoriously wrote his reports from memory some time after the sittings and his recollection was often at fault.

Nor do I think the second explanation likely, although it is possible that many reports of occult phenomena are actually written with the express purpose of deceiving readers ; but Geley was obviously an idealist, as his book *De l'Inconscient au Conscient* shows, even if he went astray, and I would not impute to him a conscious intention to cheat. Had that been the case, he would at least have arranged his data on hand controls and the choice of photographs so that his statements appeared to some extent credible to sceptical readers, whereas his work on Eva seems to have taken shape in an irrational mental state which paid no heed to contradictions.

The third explanation of Geley's reports must surely be the correct one. It presumes that Geley, although very gifted in other respects, was subject to illusions and hallucinations 'that made him incapable of any accurate observation at all', when he attempted to realise his loftiest strivings and hopes for mankind by the help of our field of enquiry.

Now that twenty-five years have passed since Osty showed me the unpublished stereoscopic pictures which he had found among Geley's papers after his death, there appears to be no reason for further secrecy. I have therefore felt it to be my duty to report Geley's suppression of highly suspicious details from his published work.<sup>1</sup>

Stuttgart-Degerloch, Germany.

<sup>1</sup> Since Herr Lambert considers that the procedure followed by Dr Geley and those who suppressed Osty's discovery may be more frequent in our field of study than is generally supposed, he sets out in the second part of his communication, which is not printed here for lack of space, the conditions which he thinks should be observed to make experiments fraud-proof. In the light of these conditions he criticises the Martin-Stribic ESP experiments and also some of the views expressed by Dr Soal in his Presidential Address to the Society. Herr Lambert's complete communication has been placed in the Society's library, where it may be consulted by members.



## REVIEWS

THE AMERICAN SEANCES WITH EUSAPIA PALLADINO. By Hereward Carrington. New York, Garrett Publications, 1954. 273 pp. \$3.75.

Students of the phenomena of mediumship and of Eusapia Palladino in particular will welcome the detailed report and stenographic notes of the sittings which Eusapia Palladino gave in the United States in 1909-10. Eusapia had been detected cheating by a group of S.P.R. investigators in 1895 and was then, in accordance with the usual practice of the Society, dropped by the Society. But for years a number of investigators on the Continent testified to the genuineness of the phenomena witnessed at her seances and in 1908 the S.P.R. arranged for the Hon. Everard Feilding, Mr W. W. Baggally and Mr Hereward Carrington to hold a further series of sittings with her in Naples. Their report (*Proc. S.P.R.*, xxiii, 1909, 306-569) was unanimous in stating that they were convinced of the genuineness of at least some of the phenomena. Two of the three were conjurors, Baggally and Carrington, well acquainted with the trickery which Eusapia was known to employ from time to time.

In his introduction to the report on the American sittings Carrington states of his past experiences with mediums: 'Every medium producing fraudulent physical phenomena investigated by me had been detected *in one sitting*—with the exception of Keeler whose cleverness necessitated a second sitting. . . . I was present at ten sittings in Naples, without being enabled to detect any system of trickery which would account for the facts.' (p. 6).

Carrington took the precaution of sending to all prospective sitters before Palladino's arrival in America a circular letter giving details of her frauds which had been detected, and giving also specific instructions as to the methods of control which should prevent trickery on the part of the medium.

The American sittings took place a year after the Naples sittings. Carrington attended some thirty additional sittings there and speaking of the phenomena that he witnessed says: 'I became more and more convinced of the reality of these facts—so that, at the present time, not a shadow of doubt remains in my mind as to the reality of the greater number of them.' (p. 6).

The seance room at which twenty-one sittings were held was on the third floor of an office building in New York. The windows were bolted on the inside and fitted with burglar alarms. The door was locked and bolted from the inside. On some occasions, not all, Eusapia was searched before the sitting. On no occasion was anything suspicious found concealed either about her person

or in her clothing. An extract from the stenographer's reports will give an idea of some of the more striking phenomena :

SEANCE xv.

10.24. The small table falls out of the cabinet. E. insists that someone get under the table and hold her feet. One of the sitters does so. The small table moves. The tambourine sounds. The small table rises and rests on the shoulder of the left controller. It moves several times. No one is touching it. The controllers say that they have both E.'s hands.

10.26. E. gets very angry at something and cries out loudly. The small table falls with a crash. The curtain blows out. Mr C. asks if he may put the small table back in the cabinet. E. says, 'Not you, but someone else.' Mr J. puts the small table back. He no sooner places it on the floor, however, than it is thrown out again violently. It follows him right out of the cabinet. He puts it in again, with the same result. It seems as if pushed with great force by something within. It does this three times. Mr J. says that it seems as if the table were set on air cushions. It seems impossible to make it touch the floor. He finally makes it stay in the cabinet (p. 121).

Compare with this a statement by Carrington that on one occasion 'Eusapia asked me to enter the cabinet and hold the small table within it. It was light enough for me to see that nothing was opposite me, even though the curtains were more or less closed : yet some invisible being or force was strong enough to throw both the table and myself out of the cabinet completely—landing on the floor outside.' (p. 272).

Carrington discusses in some detail articles which appeared in the *American Press* and elsewhere by sitters 'exposing' the fraudulent methods of Eusapia. Thus Dr Stanley L. Krebs has stated in the *S.P.R. Journal* (June 1910) that he saw the right hand of the medium untying the robe which fastened her left wrist to the wrist of the left-hand controller (Seance xxii, p. 169). The shorthand report of the sitting only reports that the left hand controller (Mr T.) reported that he was holding Eusapia's left hand at the time, but Carrington (p. 247) states (a) that the untying of the ropes took a considerable time (this is borne out by the shorthand notes that give references to untying at 12.08, 12.13, 12.16 and 12.31); (b) that during this time he was repeatedly urging controllers 'to verify the fact that they were actually holding the medium's right and left hands, that they were not dummy hands and that they trace the hands which they were holding to the shoulder'—which they stated they did.

Two extracts from the short hand report may be added :

12.16. . . . Between the left controller and E. a white hand comes up. It seems to come up from under the table, and shows a forearm in a



black sleeve, with a white frill round the wrist. [E.'s dress had no frill.] It is a very small hand and quite white. It is seen by all and remains visible for at least five seconds. The rope is untied.

12.31. Mr F. says, 'The rope on my arm is being untied.' A few seconds later 'The rope is pulled off my arm now.' He says, 'Her hand is on mine all the time.' Mr T. says, 'Her hand has never left mine.'

Carrington doubts the reliability of Dr Krebs's report.

Eusapia gave a series of four sittings in one of the physical laboratories of Columbia University. These were arranged by Professor D. S. Miller, Professor of Philosophy. It was a great pity that it proved impossible, owing to the refusal of Professor Miller, for some experiments planned by Professor R. W. Wood, Professor A. Trowbridge and Mr Carrington (including the use of X-rays and electrical contacts) to be carried out. The Committee's verdict was that there was 'No evidence of Supernormal Powers, but much Evidence of Trickery' (p. 242). That report was signed by Professor R. W. Wood among others, but on the appearance of articles in *Collier's* claiming to expose Eusapia he wrote to the *New York Times* referring to other earlier seances that he had attended to say :

Although I signed the statement of the investigating committee that no conclusive evidence was obtained of the supernormal powers of Palladino, I cannot accept the so-called 'exposure' of her methods of raising the table published in *Collier's*. I have myself been under the table, in a brightly lighted room, during its levitation to a height of fully two feet, and passed my hand between the legs of the table and the skirts of Madame Palladino. At one sitting (not an official one) I held the right hand of the medium during some very remarkable levitations. The room was brightly lighted, and both legs of the table were easily seen to be clear of the medium's feet and knees. . . . In addition I passed my hand under the feet of the table nearest the medium. If it is a trick, it is a much cleverer one than that described by Professor Jastrow (pp. 243-4).

Such a statement from so keenly critical and able an observer as Professor R. W. Wood must give all critics pause and may be used in support of Carrington's final conclusion 'that we repeatedly witnessed, in Eusapia Palladino's seances, genuine physical phenomena of an extraordinary character which (if duly appreciated) would throw an entirely new light upon biology, psychology, and the whole structure of mechanistic science.' (p. 273).

F. J. M. STRATTON

GHOSTS OVER ENGLAND. By R. Thurston Hopkins. London, Meridian Books, 1953. 193 pp. Illus. 16s.

It is strange of the author to have chosen this title only a few

years after the publication of Harry Price's *Poltergeist Over England*. The new work is a readable collection of ghost stories including the old favourites and many less written of. Mr Hopkins's credulity is not easily strained but he disarms criticism by proclaiming on page 14: 'And don't—oh, I pray you, don't—ask if these ghost stories *are true*. As I have often said before, the manifestations in ghost stories must be accepted unconditionally, and the *inner essence* approached through a sensitive imagination.'

The book need concern no serious student of psychical research, particularly as it has no index. There are brief references to the Society's 1890 Census of Hallucinations and to the writings of the late G. N. M. Tyrrell.

DENYS PARSONS

## CORRESPONDENCE

### TIME AND PRECOGNITION

SIR,—To eliminate the apparent fallacy of using the concept *future* in two different senses in the same syllogism, Mr Dalton's proposed solution, as developed in his letter published in the *Journal* of May 1954, pages 317 to 320, is to distinguish between two concepts: '*Time 1 future*,' and the '*Time 2 or real future*.' The former he characterizes as follows:

The '*Time 1 future*' which is accessible to precognition is that part of the four-dimensional world which lies ahead of the 'now-line'. It is not the real future, but a pseudo-future which is really present to the dreamer (p. 318).

A causal sequence can exist in Time 2. . . . This new factor—the memory of the dream—has no causal ancestor in Time 1. It initiates a new chain of events in Time 1. . . . This chain of events is determined from the moment that the dreamer wakes. At that moment, therefore, the Time 1 future is changed, this change being instantaneous in Time 2 (pp. 318–19).

The second time-concept is characterized by Dalton as follows: The real future may turn out to be similar to the pseudo-future, or may be quite unlike it; but in either case it is essentially a different thing. All we can say of the real future is that it will happen; *not* that it is bound to happen, since it *is* at present nothing at all, and nothing can be said about it in the present tense. It cannot be precognized, nor can it be altered by intervention, since one cannot alter something which does not exist (p. 318).

Let us apply this duality of time-concepts to an imaginary precognitive case. Mr Brown is a rich uncle who is leaving his fortune to Mr Smith. In the Time 1 future, Mr Brown is to be killed at a given intersection at 10.01 p.m. on April 1. Both Mr Brown and Mr Smith are having precognitive dreams on March



15. Brown dreams vividly and precognitively of the fatal collision. Smith dreams vividly and precognitively of inheriting the fortune, setting himself up in business, and marrying his sweetheart—all of which is part of the already existing Time 1 future. But Brown's precognitive dream initiates a new chain of events in Time 1. As he approaches the intersection on April 1, he suddenly recognizes it, jams on the brakes, and escapes death. But that changes Smith's Time 1 future as well as Brown's; Smith is no longer to be an heir. His 'precognitive' dream of March 15 is no longer precognitive.

On this basis, how can any really precognitive dreams occur? For interventions must be taking place with great frequency. All education consists in continuous intervention, according to Dalton: Education consists in the creation of an artificial environment, to which the child must respond with certain alterations of behaviour, considered to be socially desirable. But only the child himself can actually effect these alterations; and in so doing he must make an effort of will, i.e., an intervention (*Journal*, January 1954, p. 233).

If this be true, then the Time 1 future is not only being shattered by frequent interventions due to precognitions, but is being remoulded every instant by the interventions of every act of will of every human being. This would make precognition impossible. But Dalton's theory was devised to account for precognition!

Suppose, then, that we try out (as an alternative) the conception of the future as a real fourth dimension, already in existence for observers in Time 2 ( $O_2$ 's). Under this conception, there is only one, real future. Let us suppose that the future, the present and the past of Time 1 are all equally accessible to  $O_2$ , and that  $O_2$  is a real aspect of everyone's subconsciousness, ordinarily deeply buried, but capable of becoming dominant in some dreams, and destined to become dominant at certain stages of psychic development after death. Under this hypothesis, the mere fact that the future is real and potentially accessible does not mean that all dreamers will be infinitely wise, any more than the fact that our whole earth is in existence and potentially accessible makes all earth-dwellers geographically omniscient. Some are more widely travelled and more widely read in geography. Similarly, some dreamers may be presumed to be more cognizant of the already existent future, and to bring that knowledge back (usually subconsciously, sometimes consciously) into their Time 1 lives. They thus become psychically precognizant, to a greater or lesser extent, in their lives in Time 1.

While Dalton's theory of two futures—a Time 1 future which, although not 'the real future', is already in existence and which

can be altered by intervention, and a Time 2 future which is not in existence and cannot be precognized—must be abandoned as logically untenable, his general conception of a basic difference between the observer in Time 1 and the observer in Time 2 does appear to the present writer to have clear and major significance. The reality of precognition seems to be inescapable. If precognition does occur, the most reasonable interpretation would seem to be along somewhat the lines of this distinction between  $O_1$  and  $O_2$ . But if that distinction is valid, then our whole conception of personality in earthly life, and of the probable nature of existence beyond death must be basically reconstructed. Any naive conception that survival consists merely in a further extension of experience in Time 1 must be superseded.

Suppose we make the effort necessary to conceive of a state of consciousness in which one awakens to a realization that one's earthly life, from birth to (what now seems one's future) death is all extended before one, as a given fact, much as the biography of some historic character is a given fact. Suppose one tries to imagine the state of a person who has come to such a realization, and who is trying to communicate with a loved one who believes himself to be at a certain point in the Time 1 dimension of his life but who also exists as a Time 2 entity whose earthly life is completely extended in Time 1, which is given as a dimension in the Time 2 existence. Some such mind-stretching conception seems to be demanded by the growing body of proofs that precognition is real.

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#### SERIALISM AND PHYSICS

Sir,—I have read with much interest Mr G. F. Dalton's article 'Serialism and the Unconscious' in the January–February 1954 number of the *Journal*, and the subsequent correspondence in the May–June and July–October numbers. While it may be true that all the writers are concerned only with the psychological and the parapsychological, nevertheless words have been used which name quantities subject to physical measurement, for example; time, length, field, external world, event, and movement. Moreover the four-dimensional representation of a classical mechanical system of moving particles was an invention of physicists long before Dunne wrote of Serialism.

It is not the main purpose of this note to add anything to what has already been said regarding possible applications of Serialism



to psychology and para-psychology, but rather to enquire what Serialism could mean to a physicist.

Mr Dalton says 'The idea of movement involves both space and time; but since the "space" concerned is ordinary time, the "time" must be some other kind of time.'

A physicist, *qua* physicist, is not concerned with the subjective, but only with information derived from objective measurements. All physical measurements could, at least in principle, be made and recorded by suitably constructed machines, the notion of a self-conscious observer lying outside physics. Thus, the physical equivalent of a 'serial observer' would be a physical recording made by an artefact of an artefact's recording the recording of another artefact etc.

While it is certainly true that 'the idea of movement involves both space and time', it is clearly false to say 'the space concerned is ordinary time'. A space interval is a length, and standards of length are provided by 'rigid bodies' under standard conditions.

To measure a length,  $l$ , however, takes time, the least possible time in physics being  $l/c$ , where  $c$  is the maximum speed at which information can be transmitted over a space-interval  $l$ .

In the four-dimensional representation of a physical system the fourth, or 'time-like', coordinate is not ordinary time (as provided by the solar-system as clock) but a negative imaginary length,  $-ict$ , which represents, approximately, the greatest distance from the observer that an event could possibly have been if information of it had arrived with speed  $c$ .

Relativity Theory provides no information about the world, but it defines the limitations to be imposed on inferences made from certain kinds of measurements, usually more 'ideal' than practical, since relativistic corrections are only required in cases where very high relative speeds are involved. If there were no light or other radiant energy, and the greatest speed of communication was, let us say, the speed of sound in air, then the invention of a jet plane capable of exceeding the speed of sound would provide information of a distant event in the 'observer's future'.

Nevertheless, and in spite of the foregoing, the mathematician's model of a four-dimensional continuum has now a very strong hold on the popular imagination. Consequently it may be of some interest to consider this model in a little more detail, but first it will be advisable to enquire how the physicist regards time and motion.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A more detailed description is given in *Physical and Psychical Research: an Analysis of Belief* by C. C. L. Gregory and Anita Kohsen (Reigate, Surrey, Omega Press, 1954).

Neither time nor motion are 'simples', nor can they be fully represented by a number or a line. If the measure of a time-interval is the number,  $t$ , this number is obtained, let us say, by counting the number of swings of a seconds pendulum 'at the observer' which have occurred between two events 'at the observer'. If  $t$ , so obtained, is the time-interval, then the value of a second quantity must also be known throughout the interval, and this is called 'the rate of the clock'. In practice all clocks are rated, directly or indirectly, from observation of the solar-system as master-clock, and this amounts very nearly to comparing the *rate* at which the pendulum swings with the *rate* at which the earth is rotating. Thus, for determining a time interval, two things are necessary i.e., counting a number of successive similar events, and measuring throughout the interval the frequency of their occurrence in terms of some natural frequency-standard.

Now consider movements such as those of a clock's pendulum, or of a motor car travelling along a road. Movement, like time, is not a 'simple' and cannot be fully represented either by a number or a line. If the wheels of the car do not slip on the road, a history of its movement is provided by a succession of simultaneous readings of the mileometer and the speedometer, the former being a length-measuring instrument (distance along the road) and the latter a frequency-indicator, showing the rate at which the wheels of the car are turning in terms of the rate at which the earth rotates.

The practice of the mathematician is to express the changing in terms of the changeless; all isolated classical dynamical systems, in which there are no frictional forces, are more or less complicated clocks which go forever at a constant rate. This is an ideal concept, but it is closely exemplified by the solar-system, which provides our standard clock of assumed 'constant rate'.

It is our informational relationship, direct or indirect, with this clock which provides physical time, i.e., the ordinary time-scale of the calendar with its various sub-divisions down to thousandths of a second. For some purposes we can use calendar time as a 'fourth co-ordinate' in locating events with respect to a moving point (a point on the earth's surface) of the giant clock.

This is not to say that, one day, some other natural clock might be preferred, such as a molecular clock, to provide a natural frequency-standard. If this were done then we might be able to say that the solar system, as clock, had a slight gaining or losing rate; at present this concept is meaningless.

The time-problem is important for Psychical Research in respect of precognition. If psychic events are wholly dependent

on information of large-scale physical events, and the speed of information is never greater than 'the speed of light', then there can be no precognition for the physicist of a future event except as a highly probable inference.

All is not physics, however, and, as Feibleman has pointed out, at any integrative level '*its mechanism lies at the level below and its purpose at the level above*'.<sup>1</sup> For example, the *causes* of molecules in my arm behaving as they do must be ascribed to atomic forces; the *purpose* of their movements, however, is to provide an energy-supply to the muscles which move the bones of my hand while I write.

Low in the order of physical objects are electrons and other 'ultimate particles', but still lower are the potential fields of the physicist and their 'geometrical ordering', some account of which is attempted in Relativity Theory. Thus it is appropriate to seek the causes of our knowledge of events at some slightly lower level, perhaps the comparing of 'mental images' with 'sense-data', and to seek their purposes in a still higher integrative level. If some degree of telepathy be established, this at least necessitates the concept of a higher integrative level than that normally individually intuitable—some sort of group-mind—however limited, and here we are involved with subjectivity and, at present, with incommunicability.

At this level the language of Serialism might prove useful analogically, and meaning could possibly be given to 'a travelling now'—but this would be a far remove from the notion of retarded potentials which originally gave rise to Relativity Theory.

C. C. L. GREGORY

London, N.W. 3.

#### SERIALISM AND INTERFERENCE

SIR,—There are among us some who have been intrigued by the conception of the Serial Universe propounded by the late J. W. Dunne, mainly because it appeared to provide a framework into which it might be possible to fit some of the psychic phenomena that most certainly do not appear capable of being fitted into any kind of framework hitherto provided by orthodox science. To people so minded the rational arguments used by Dunne to establish his conception of time have never appealed very strongly, not more so in fact than the similar kind of arguments used in your last issue by Hr. Aage Slomann to demolish Dunne's theories. To such people the question is not a matter of

<sup>1</sup> *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, Vol. V. No. 17 (1954) and *ibid.* L. von Bertalanffy, Vol. I. No. 2 (1950).



philosophic reasoning to be settled by schoolmen in accordance with the rules of logic but an empirical question which can only be hammered out in the hard test of experience.

They want to know whether Dunne's theories are coherent, and whether, as Dunne himself claims and as Mr G. F. Dalton writing in preceding issues of the Journal with his delightful lucidity seems to indicate, they can 'be used to describe and to account for a wide range of psychological phenomena'.

Let us consider, for example, this particular faculty which Dunne ascribes to human beings and which Mr Dalton refers to : this faculty of interfering to alter the pattern of futurity.

This hypothetical power of intervention on the part of the three-dimensional component of the multi-dimensional human personality conceived by Dunne accords rather well with some of the preconceived beliefs held by Western peoples ; that is to say, it contrives a kind of synthesis between a belief in Free Will and the idea of pre-destination. Furthermore, it constitutes a challenge to the dismal supposition that the second law of thermodynamics is applicable outside the limited sphere of physics. In these circumstances, it is natural that people of liberal outlook should *prima facie* look kindly upon the interference faculty as propounded by Dunne.

Let us, however, apply to this particular feature of Dunne's doctrine a double test. First let us see whether Dunne's exposition of it is coherent and, secondly, let us apply an empirical test to see whether the theory seems to fit the facts of experience.

Now let us examine Dunne's own writings to see what he means by 'interference'. He says that the interference occurs at the present moment, that is, at the point of contact where the three-dimensional human entity which he calls Observer 1 reacts upon the three-dimensional field with which he is in contact.

When, however, we attempt to follow through the idea, Dunne's writings do not appear to give very clear guidance there being an apparent inconsistency in the character of the interference faculty that is described in his earlier writings and that described in the later ones.

In Chapter 26 of his first book *An Experiment with Time* Dunne writes as follows : 'The child learns quickly enough that in Field 1 he can intervene to obtain those pleasures and avoid those pains.' He adds : 'And that very rapidly becomes the dominating aim of the man.' This is, of course, merely a restatement in Dunne's terms of an idea with which everyone is familiar, namely, that the human being operating in three-dimensional space at the 'now'

of flowing time has the faculty of being able to foresee the approach of some unpleasant events and the ability to take avoiding action, and has equally the faculty of anticipating pleasurable events and of taking steps to realise them.

At the time when Dunne wrote *An Experiment with Time* he seems, therefore, to have regarded this kind of tight-rope dancing along the Time 1 axis as being what he means by 'intervention' or 'interference'.

Further on in Chapter 25 of the book Dunne states quite definitely and without ambiguity that every scientific experiment is in the nature of 'an interference'. He says: 'The physical world which you (or you with others) describe exhibits itself as deterministic in Time 1. But it proves to have a contact point with your Observer 1 at the travelling Time 1 "Now". There you can interfere and every scientific experiment is such an interference.'

Generally, therefore, these early writings of J. W. Dunne represent the intelligent efforts of human beings to secure pleasure and to avoid pain as involving interference in the structure of Time 1 futurity and they also represent every experiment carried out by every little scientific person in all the laboratories throughout the globe as being direct interferences in the structure of Time 1 future. The picture he presents is of a Time 1 future subject everywhere on this earth and at every succeeding instant to a constant succession of interferences created by the exercise of the interference faculty by humans (he says nothing about animals).

The picture he presents in his later book *The New Immortality* is, however, different. In Chapter 16 of that book he states that we interfere very seldom. He says: 'I adhere, however, to my opinion: we interfere very seldom: and this for the simple reason that such interference is not needed in the case of a creature so highly developed as is Man.' He goes on to give details of the cerebration processes so far as they are known and winds up by saying: 'It follows that an interference to-day must be an act supremely unselfish.'

These apparently contradictory pictures as to what the author of Serialism means by 'interference' give rise to perplexity. In the meantime, let us apply an empirical test, taking a well-authenticated instance of prophecy and seeing whether it could ever have taken place if subject to frequent 'interferences'.

An example of precognition which serves to illuminate the problem now under consideration is to be found in the writings of Nostradamus. The reference is to that well-known quatrain in

which he foretells a tortuous journey undertaken by two married persons, one of whom is described as the 'elected Capet' (Capet being the synonym which he frequently applies to the King of France). The journey traverses the forest of Reines and involves a small place called Varennes. Following upon the journey is 'tempest, fire, blood, and slicing'.

This prophecy has been generally accepted as foretelling the cross-country flight of Louis 16th and his Queen from their detention in Paris in the early days of the French Revolution, the stopping of their coach and their own apprehension at the little town of Varennes, and the terrible events which followed that episode. The French word 'tranche' signifying 'slicing off' is dreadfully apposite when applied to the fate of Louis and of Marie Antoinette.

Now upon Dunne's hypotheses it might be conceivable that Nostradamus living in the sixteenth Century should have been able to foresee and foretell some great event of a general character such as was the French Revolution, for such great events might be regarded as unaffected by a myriad interferences in matters of detail.

Nostradamus peering into the Time 1 Future structure might conceivably have been able to prognosticate the great event as being something which in spite of innumerable interim interferences was bound to happen ultimately. But is it conceivable that he could have predicted so many and circumstantial details of a trivial character such as the name of the little town where the royal coach was intercepted, and the rather obscure fact that Louis alone among the Kings of France had suffered 'election'? If these things really existed in the Time 1 future at the instant of Nostradamus prophecy, is it conceivable that they could have endured unchanged throughout two centuries if subject to the continual interference and reconstruction which the future would on Dunne's theory have undergone at the hands of every one of the millions of Europeans who lived out their lives in the long intervening period between the prophecy and its fulfilment?

If precognition takes place somewhat upon the lines predicated by Dunne—and it must be borne in mind that Dunne's whole theory of Serialism really rests upon the fact of precognition—then the existence of prophecies such as that quoted above would seem to indicate that 'interference' must be matter of rare occurrence ; so rare, in fact, as to be practically non-existent. Dunne's world would then appear to be one of Predestination tempered by a hypothetical but rarely used faculty of interference, and his earlier hypothesis whereby every scientific experiment was alleged



to constitute an interference with the structure of futurity would perhaps have to be discarded.

Hildenborough, Kent.

G. MAUNSELL

### RETROCOGNITION AS A FACTOR IN MEDIUMISTIC STATEMENTS

SIR,—A paragraph in Mr Underwood's letter in the last issue of this *Journal* (p. 365) re-raises the point whether mediumistic communications are relevant to the survival controversy. Telepathy between medium and sitter is often invoked by anti-survivalists to explain details for which coincidence is an unconvincing explanation. This means the medium has convincingly to 'dress-up' second-hand material as first-hand. Why not allow that there is less unconscious fraud and that the details *do* come from the person ostensibly communicating; not by survival but by retrocognition? Granted the possibility of direct paranormal cognition of a past event or thought, neither survival nor telepathy between medium and sitter need be invoked to explain a medium's paranormal knowledge. Providing a thought has occurred, the later adventures of its originator would not affect its availability to the retrocogniser. Both precognition and retrocognition have been demonstrated in the austere experimental set-up of card-guessing; but, possibly because of its more revolutionary implications, precognition has been given all the lime-light in spontaneous cases, the possibility of retrocognition has not been so fully investigated, and cases which might have been examples have been summarily dismissed as due to delayed emergence of a telepathic message. It is fantastic that a medium should receive all sorts of odd facts from all sorts of unlikely persons during their life-time, keep them in cold storage for a matter of years and then dish them up when required—it would require colossal powers of subliminal precognition to discover what facts would be required in future seances. That is why the 'delayed emergence' theory seems so weak an explanation of the Chaffin Will case (*Proc. S.P.R.*, xxxvi, 517) which has been held as compelling evidence in favour of a survival hypothesis (see, e.g. the late B. Abdy Collins, *Proc. S.P.R.*, xlv, 367). But for the medium to discover facts first-hand by, so to speak, 'going backwards in time' to an occasion when the person to be 'contacted' was alive and becoming aware of the contents of his mind at that time, is surely quite as feasible an explanation as telepathy between medium and sitter?

Trinity College, Cambridge.

MICHAEL C. PERRY

‘AN EXPERIMENT IN PRECOGNITION’

SIR,—In Dr West’s article ‘Experimental Parapsychology in Britain’ in the *Journal* (July-October 1954) he briefly mentions an experiment carried out by me at the late Mr G. N. M. Tyrrell’s suggestion. In this connection I should like to mention the following points :

(1) The paper in question was not picked out of the hat by me personally, but by an acquaintance.

(2) The lady selected did not carry the article handled by the medium about with her for a year as stated ; she put it away and forgot about it until reminded by me later.

These details may seem unimportant, but they are necessary for a clear picture of the experiment in question.

(MRS) V. M. AUSTIN

FIFTY POUNDS PRIZE ESSAY

Thanks to the generosity of a member who wishes to remain anonymous, the Society is offering a prize of £50 for an essay on a subject which falls within its field. The essay may present original ideas or criticism or describe a recent piece of experimental work, and should preferably not exceed 3,000 words. Entrants should submit their essays under a pseudonym, enclosing their name and address in a sealed envelope. Entries should be typewritten in double spacing on one side of the paper only, and must be submitted by 30 June 1955 to the Secretary, Society for Psychical Research, 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1. The anonymous donor has appointed as judges : Professor H. H. Price, Dr D. J. West, and Mr Denys Parsons.

These details are being announced in scientific journals in Great Britain and the United States.

THE PERROTT STUDENTSHIP

The Perrott Studentship in Psychical Research at Trinity College, Cambridge, has been awarded to Mr Trevor H. Hall. Mr Hall, a member of the Society and Hon. Vice President of the Magic Circle, is co-author, with Dr E. J. Dingwall and Mrs K. M. Goldney, of the report on the investigation of Borley Rectory which is to be published shortly in the *Proceedings*.

# Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square · London · WC1

## SUPPLEMENT

TO

## JOURNAL

March-April 1953, Vol. 37, No. 674

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

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### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1952

#### I. THE SOCIETY'S SEVENTIETH YEAR

THE Society was fortunate to be able to celebrate the completion of its seventieth year under the Presidency of Dr Gilbert Murray, O.M., who had previously occupied the Chair in the years 1915-16. Dr Murray delivered his Presidential Address at Caxton Hall on 21 May 1952. His acceptance of the office, his Address, and the Anniversary combined to attract a gratifying amount of attention to the Society's work, as was shown by references to it in most of the leading newspapers, including *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Manchester Guardian*, the *News Chronicle*, the *Glasgow Herald*, the *Birmingham Post*, the *Spectator* and *Time and Tide*. In addition, there appeared in *The Times*, on the day of Dr Murray's Presidential Address, a long leader-page article surveying the work of the Society from its foundation in 1882.

Other public lectures were delivered at Caxton Hall during the summer and autumn by Dr R. H. Thouless, Professor H. H. Price, Professor C. D. Broad, and Dr S. G. Soal, and were well attended. All these lectures, particulars of which are printed at the end of this Report, together with papers written for the occasion by Professor Gardner Murphy and Professor A. C. Hardy, are in process of publication in the *Proceedings*.

#### 2. RESEARCH

##### *Experimental Work*

The most noteworthy advance in experimental work in 1952 was Mr G. W. Fisk's introduction of a new system of card tests in which subjects are asked to guess the position of the hour hand on a clock face. Increased sensitivity can be achieved by using a system of scoring which gives credit for near misses as well as for direct hits. The work that has so far been carried out with these new cards suggests that it is easier



to obtain positive results with them than with the standard ESP cards. The use of twelve choices instead of five, and the assessment of near misses, allows an unusually detailed examination of displacement and other secondary effects. A promising field of research has been opened up by these new cards.

Mr Fisk has also obtained successful results in PK experiments with clock cards. One lady gave outstanding scores over a long series of tests in which the targets, which were decided by Mr Fisk well over a hundred miles away, remained unknown to her until after her data had been scored. A report appears in the current issue of the *Journal*.

Early in the year Dr West completed his card tests with psychotic subjects, and his report was published in the May 1952 number of the *Journal*. He and Mr Fisk also carried out a detailed examination of the displacement effects that had been obtained in the S.P.R. Home-Testing experiments. The analysis showed that a large number of different subjects had contributed to the same odd effect. Dr West advanced the hypothesis that the experimenter is an important factor in determining the type of result produced in ESP tests. He is at present working on research directed towards testing this hypothesis.

Dr S. C. Wallwork of Nottingham University carried out an original investigation in which electro-encephalographic recordings were taken of subjects engaged in ESP tests. The ESP scores were insignificant, so it was impossible to say whether there was any connexion between ESP hits and variations in alpha-rhythm activity. Some preliminary ESP tests have been carried out by Dr West, Mr Edward Osborn, and Mr Fred Wilson using a psycho-galvanometer to detect any unconscious reactions in a telepathic subject to stimuli, consisting of mild electric shocks, given to an agent in an adjoining room. Mr Nigel Richmond reported in the *Journal* for March 1952 some statistically significant results from experiments designed to show a PK influence on the movements of microscopic organisms.

### *Spontaneous Cases*

One of the most interesting cases of collective hallucination in recent years was ably investigated by Mr G. W. Lambert and Mrs C. H. Gay. Their report, 'The Dieppe Raid Case', was published in the *Journal* for May 1952 and was widely quoted in the press, especially in Canada. One of several unusual features was the fact that the two percipients made careful notes of their experience while it was actually in progress.

In the Annual Report for 1951 reference was made to the numerous requests received by officers of the Society to investigate poltergeists and phenomena of haunting in various parts of the country, and to the difficulties of complying with such requests owing to the very heavy call on the time of officers of the Society and the expenses of travelling. It is, however, gratifying to note that notwithstanding these difficulties several houses from which phenomena had been reported were visited by officers of the Society. For instance an interesting case of poltergeist type was investigated by Mrs Goldney, and several visits to the house were paid by her, Mr Osborn, Dr West, and Miss Nangie. They were able to give advice which was gratefully accepted by the family

living in the house. Later, the occurrences ceased entirely. This case was unusual in that the family had avoided publicity, so that the investigation was able to proceed without hindrance.

At the request of the management of a small hotel on the East coast Mrs Goldney, accompanied by Dr Dingwall, visited the hotel and inquired into an apparition said to have been seen by the owner and guests. They spent the night there and received reports from other witnesses, but the inquiry remained inconclusive.

The Council wish to thank Mr Denis Chesters for investigating a poltergeist case in Sussex, and Mr Michael Perry for a report on a crisis apparition which makes an interesting addition to the Society's records. They are also indebted to the Rev. W. H. Stevens, a member of the Society, for watching on the Society's behalf the case of the 'Runcorn poltergeist' which had attracted much attention in the Press. Mr Stevens was impressed by the occurrences, but reported that they were too sporadic to justify an officer of the Society travelling from London to pursue the investigation.

### *Mediumship*

In the spring an American friend of the Society, who wishes to remain anonymous, wrote personally to some members of the Council inviting them to undertake at his expense an inquiry into the problem of survival. He was moved to approach them by his great admiration for the work done in earlier years on this subject by F. W. H. Myers, the Sidgwicks, and other leaders of the Society. The members to whom he wrote gladly agreed to do what they could, and enlisted the co-operation of Mrs C. H. Gay whose knowledge of contemporary mediumship would, they well knew, be of great assistance. After proxy sittings had been held with three mediums well known to members of the Society, at which 'K objects' provided by the American sponsor and others were used, it was decided to widen the scope of the inquiry and under Mrs Gay's general direction to investigate as many mediums as possible both in London and other centres. The intention was to get sittings for experienced sitters all over the country with as many mediums in their districts as seemed at all likely to give good results. Knowledge so obtained would be in itself of great value to the Society, and might lead to discovery of one or more individual mediums worth more systematic investigation. Nearly twenty experienced members of the Society co-operated. Some reported that there were no mediums in their district worth investigating or none willing to give private sittings; others had sittings which, with few exceptions, were reported as poor or bad. A few mediums seemed worth further investigation, and these are being followed up. The inquiry has provided information of value to the Society, and the Council wish to thank the American friend for initiating it, and Mrs Gay and the other members who have co-operated.

Dr Louis Rose, a member of the Society, has continued his investigations into the 'psychic healing' powers of Mr Harry Edwards. It is hoped that a report will be published at a later stage. Dr Rose and Mrs Goldney together inquired into a London case of psychic healing

brought to their notice by another member, Mr J. D. Race, and interesting material was collected.

Early in the year Mr P. Seward, of Hove, completed an investigation which he kindly undertook into the claims of a local healer. In spite of painstaking efforts on Mr Seward's part to comply with the healer's stipulations and convenience, the healer withdrew the co-operation he had earlier promised.

Mr Denys Parsons undertook a short investigation of a non-professional Polish mental medium who was highly recommended to the Society by two compatriots. The medium claimed to be proficient in clairvoyance and psychic diagnosis, but no evidence was obtained in sittings with Mr Parsons and Mrs Hilda Stevens.

#### *Other research*

In March, Dr Phyllis Croft, Ph.D., M.R.C.V.S., a research worker at the Neuropsychiatric Research Centre, Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff, applied to the Society for a grant to carry out studies in the field of 'human radiations'. A grant of £50 was sanctioned to cover a survey of the extensive literature on the subject. Dr Croft's report has now been received and is available for consultation in the Library.

Mrs Goldney, Dr Dingwall, and Mr Trevor Hall have made considerable progress in their critical survey of the material relating to Borley Rectory, investigated by the late Mr Harry Price. It is hoped that a report will be published during 1953.

### 3. CO-OPERATION WITH BIRKBECK COLLEGE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Research Committee discussed with Professor C. A. Mace, Head of the Psychology Department of Birkbeck College, the possibility of co-operation between his Department and the Society. Among the matters discussed were the giving of advice on the conduct of experiments, facilities for study and experiment on the Society's premises, and a special course of lectures.

### 4. UNIVERSITY SOCIETIES

The conditions of University life are in many ways favourable to the prosecution of psychical research. The Council are anxious to keep in touch with groups and societies at various Universities, as they hope that the interest in psychical research there developed may lead to many of their members joining the Society and contributing to its work. As examples of what is being done they think that the reports from Oxford and Cambridge printed below will be of interest to members of the S.P.R.

#### *Oxford University Society for Psychical Research*

The President of the Oxford University S.P.R., Mr W. G. Roll, has continued and extended the intensive experimental work described in the last Annual Report, and many members of the O.U.S.P.R. have acted as his subjects. (It is hoped to publish a report of some of this



work in the *Journal*.) The Society met for two group ESP experiments and for the following lectures :

*Hilary Term*

- 31 Jan. J. C. Maby : 'Poltergeists'.  
14 Feb. W. G. Roll : 'Telepathy, Personality and Hypnosis'.  
21 Feb. G. Spencer Brown : 'Statistics in Psychical Research'.  
6 Mar. Percy Hitchcock : 'Experiences of a Spiritualist'.

*Trinity Term*

- 1 May Professor E. E. Evans-Pritchard : 'The Paranormal in African Tribes'.  
15 May Professor E. R. Dodds : 'Supernormal Phenomena in Classical Antiquity'.  
29 May Professor H. H. Price : 'Survival and the Idea of "Another World"'.  
12 June Antony Flew : 'The Future of Psychical Research'.

*Michaelmas Term*

- 27 Oct. Professor C. D. Broad : 'Phantasms of the Living and of the Dead'.  
14 Nov. Dr S. G. Soal : 'My Thirty Years of Psychical Research'.  
27 Nov. Dr D. J. West : 'Difficulties of Interpretation of Experimental Evidence'.

The Officers of the Oxford University S.P.R. are :

*President* : W. G. Roll, St Catherine's (1951-2, Michael Scriven, Magdalen); *Secretary* : Peter Clarke, Oriel (1951-2, W. G. Roll); *Treasurer* : S. Moorbatch, Lincoln.

*Cambridge University Society for Psychical Research*

The Secretary of the Cambridge University S.P.R. has sent the following account of the Society's activities during 1952.

The Society has enjoyed another successful year, with an average membership of about forty-five. Lectures were given by Dr Soal, Mrs W. H. Salter, Dr Ian Fletcher, Professor Broad, Dr and Mrs L. J. Bendit, Dr A. J. B. Robertson, and Dr Alice E. Buck. We were greatly privileged, on 25 October, to listen to Dr Gilbert Murray, who gave an informal talk about his own researches in the field of telepathy.

Although the Society exists more to encourage interest in than to teach psychical research, our members have been enthusiastic in several types of investigation. Parties have been visiting, throughout the year, an allegedly haunted house in Suffolk, and at least one party returned not prepared to pronounce the building as free from haunting. It is hoped to make a report on this house when more evidence has been collected and when there is no risk of an invasion of sight-seers. Other members have done intensive card-guessing experiments and attempted the construction of the screens believed to show the human aura. There is no doubt that members generally would welcome the opportunity of further research into alleged physical manifestations.

The Officers of the Cambridge University S.P.R. are : *Secretary* : T. L. K. White, Trinity Hall (1951-2, D. B. Slingsby, St John's); *Treasurer* : W. M. Lister, Queens'; *Experimental Officer* : R. Rendell, Christ's. The President is Professor C. D. Broad, Trinity.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1952

## FREDERIC W. H. MYERS MEMORIAL FUND

[illegible]

BLENNERHASSETT RESEARCH FUND

<u>£</u>	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS (Net)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£	23	15	10
21	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		21	10	6
	POSTAGES RECOVERED	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			11	0
<u>£</u>	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£	45	17	4

## RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

	<b>BALANCE CARRYING FORWARD</b>		
£410 112	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS (Net) -	-	- £509 5 6
	INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND RECOVERABLE -	-	- 13 0 0
£522	TOTAL INCOME -	-	- £522 5 6
	<i>Less EXPENDITURE :</i>		
48	Travelling and General Research Expenses -	-	- 53 3 7
	Grant to Dr Phyllis Croft for report on human radiations -	-	- 37 10 0
	Grant to J. Fraser Nicol for PK Inquiry -	-	- 100 0 0
	Contributions towards General Fund:		
62	Rent -	-	- — — —
35	Secretarial Assistant -	-	- — — —
I	Sundry Expenses -	-	- 81 15 0
10	Grant to A. T. Oram -	-	- 3 10 2
156			
			£275 18 9
£366	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR -	-	- £246 6 0

## GENERAL FUND

SUBSCRIPTIONS :		GENERAL FUND	
	Members	1950	1951
		1951	1952
		1952	
	Associates	1950	1951
		1951	1952
		1952	
£1 614			
53	PROPORTION OF LIFE MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS		
225	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS		
3	INTEREST ON BANK DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		
55	INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND RECOVERABLE		
63	CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS RENT		
34	CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT'S SALARY		
162	SUBLET RENT		
£2,209			
	TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME		
	DONATIONS (Annual)		
	Life Members		
	Members		
255	Associates		
104	DONATIONS		
300	LEGACY		
	ROYALTIES FROM THE BOOKS OF THE LATE SIR WILLIAM BARRETT		
3	SALE OF BOOKS AND WASTE PAPER		
74	FEES FROM PRESS		
736			
£2,945			
	TOTAL INCOME		

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)



BALANCE SHEETS (cont'd)  
RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

1951		
£1,216	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	£1,416 10 7
57	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE	6 10 0
17,044	INVESTMENTS AT BOOK VALUE as per Schedule	17,643 10 4
	(Market Value at 31 December 1952 = £13,782 2 4)	
£18,917		£19,066 11 11
97	Less Amount owed to General Fund	— — —
£18,820		£19,066 11 11
<b>CAPITAL AND ACCUMULATED INCOME :</b>		
	Balance at 1 January 1952	18,820 5 2
	Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year to date as per Income and Expenditure Account	246 6 9
£18,820		£19,066 11 11

## GENERAL FUND

GENERAL FUND			
<i>FIXED ASSETS :</i>			
£145	OFFICE FURNITURE ETC. at Cost	- - - - -	£450 1 1
	(Purchases prior to 31 December 1946 remaining unvalued)		
364	Additions during year	- - - - -	93 18 6
509			543 19 7
51	Less Depreciation	- - - - -	94 18 4
£458			£449 1 3
	LIBRARY BOOKS, EXPERIMENTAL AND TECHNICAL APPARATUS	<i>Not valued</i>	- - -
£458	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		£449 1 -

<b>CURRENT ASSETS :</b>		
£1,619	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND - - - - -	£1,537 14 6
11	AMOUNTS NOT YET RECEIVED FOR SALES OF PUBLICATIONS	17 7 6
97	AMOUNTS OWING BY RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND -	- - -
35	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE - - - - -	35 6 0
12	PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE - - - - -	12 6 7
9,586	INVESTMENTS AT BOOK VALUE as per Schedule -	9,585 12 10
	(Market Value at 31 December 1952 £8,125 14 2	
£11,360		£11,188 7 5
<b>Less CURRENT LIABILITIES :</b>		
	LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT :	
£1,176	Balance at 1 January 1952 - - - - -	£1,207 10 0
84	Add Life Subscriptions received during year to date	210 0 0
1,260		1,417 10 0
52	Less Transfer to Income and Expenditure Account -	273 10 0
1,208	Balance, being 50 % of existing Life Members' Sub-	
	scriptions - - - - -	1,144 0 0
118	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED IN	
72	ADVANCE - - - - -	146 19 0
	SUNDRY CREDITORS - - - - -	60 4 0
£1,398		£1,351 3 0
9,962		9,837 4 5
£10,420	TOTAL NET ASSETS - - - - -	£10,286 5 5

CAPITAL :		
GENERAL FUND		
£9,051	Balance at 1 January 1952	9,466 8 1
458	Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year to date as per Income and Expenditure Account	— — —
264	Transfer from Income Reserve Fund towards cost of furnishings	— — —
93	Contribution from T. E. Wood towards cost of Recording Machine	— — —
£9,866		£9,466 8 1
	Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year to date as per Income and Expenditure Account	133 9 10
400	Transfer to Income Reserve Fund being Legacy and Anonymous Donations	— — —
£9,466	CARRIED FORWARD	£9,332 18 3

1981 £9,466		BROUGHT FORWARD	£9,332 18 3
	INCOME RESERVE FUND		
£633	Balance at 1 January 1952 - - - -	£768 17 5	
400	Add Transfer from General Fund - - - -	<u>      </u>	
		<u>      </u>	
£1,033		768 17 5	
264	Less Transfer to General Fund - - - -	<u>      </u>	
£769			£768 17 5
	SPECIAL DONATIONS :		
185	Balance Unexpended - - - -	- - - -	184 10 0
£10,420			£10,286 5 8

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR  
PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

MIALL, HARPER & Co.  
*Chartered Accountants.*

dol Lane, Eastcheap, London, E.C. 3.  
February 1953.

	Nominal	Book Value	Value 31 December 1952
<b>MYERS MEMORIAL FUND</b>			
3½% Conversion Stock 1961	- - - £250 0 0	£287 10 0	£196 8 2
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70	- - - 750 0 0	819 7 6	642 3 6
		<u>£1,106 17 6</u>	<u>£838 11 8</u>
<b>LENNERHASSETT RESEARCH FUND</b>			
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88	- - - - - 1,510 10 10	<u>£1,510 0 0</u>	<u>£1,161 4 11</u>
<b>RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND</b>			
4% Consolidated Stock	- - - 1,460 0 0	£1,699 1 6	£1,263 16 3
3% Funding Stock 1959/69	- - - 2,300 0 0	2,504 2 6	1,995 5 0
3½% War Stock 1952 or after	- - - 800 0 0	864 0 0	620 10 0
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88	- - - - - 6,626 1 5	6,472 17 11	5,093 15 11
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1967/72	- - - - - 514 0 0	539 14 0	413 15 5
3% Defence Bonds	- - - - - 600 0 0	670 5 0	600 7 6
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70	- - - - - 3,157 9 2	3,449 9 5	2,703 11 5
Australia 2½% Stock 1967/71	- - - - - 995 2 9	1,040 10 0	796 2 2
2½% Consolidated Stock	- - - - - 504 3 8	403 10 0	294 18 8
		<u>£17,643 10 4</u>	<u>£13,782 2 4</u>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
4% Consolidated Stock	- - - - - 86 11 11	£100 15 4	£69 18 2
York 3% Redeemable Stock 1955/65	- - - - - 800 0 0	848 0 0	700 0 0
Australia 3% Stock 1955/58	- - - - - 250 0 0	262 10 0	241 5 0
Nigeria 3% Stock 1955	- - - - - 1,200 0 0	1,272 0 0	1,194 0 0
East India Railway Deferred Annuity Class D	- - - - - 23 8 0	590 17 0	529 8 6
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70	- - - - - 3,000 0 0	3,240 2 3	2,568 15 0
3% Savings Bonds 1955/65	- - - - - 1,664 12 4	1,703 10 3	1,541 15 0
Australia 3½% Registered Stock 1965/9	- - - - - 1,500 0 0	1,507 18 0	1,280 12 6
		<u>£9,585 12 10</u>	<u>£8,125 14 2</u>

## 5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

During the year Mr K. E. Shelley, Q.C., was co-opted a member of the Council and Mrs K. M Goldney was elected an appointed member. Dr A. J. B. Robertson resigned on account of the demands on his time of his scientific work.

## 6. OBITUARY

The Council have to record the loss by death of two former Presidents of the Society, Mr J. G. Piddington and Mr G. N. M. Tyrrell, two former members of Council, Dr Maurice Wright and Dr William Brown, and of Mr Harold Myers, a son of one of our principal founders.

## 7. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

During the year 84 Members, 8 Student-Associates, 1 Corresponding Member, and 1 Hon. Associate were elected, while the total loss in membership from deaths, resignations, etc. was 102. This results in a net decrease of 8 in the total membership which now, including Honorary and Corresponding Members (17) and Hon. Associates (13), stands at 977.

## 8. PUBLICATIONS

Dr Gilbert Murray's Presidential Address, delivered on 21 May 1952, was published in November in Part 181 of the *Proceedings*. The eleventh Myers Memorial Lecture, which was given by Dr R. H. Thouless on 4 June under the title 'Psychical Research Past and Present', was published in October.

Five numbers of the *Journal*, one a double number, and three Supplements were issued during the year.

## 9. THE LIBRARY

The number of books borrowed by Members and Associates during 1952 was 694, and 63 books were borrowed by the National Central Library.

## 10. MEETINGS

### PRIVATE MEETINGS

- 16 Jan. 'The Biological Function of Dreams' by Dr J. A. Hadfield.
- 12 Feb. 'Minds and Mystifications' by Antony G. N. Flew.
- 19 Mar. 'Some New Light on D.D. Home' by E. J. Dingwall, D.Sc.
- 16 Apl. 'The Trend of Experimental Technique in ESP and PK'  
by A. T. Oram.
- 11 Sept. 'The new "Clock Face" Method for ESP and PK' by G. W.  
Fisk and A. M. J. Mitchell.
- 25 Sept. Discussion Meeting. 'How to investigate a Case.'
- 16 Oct. 'Modern Psychiatry and the Psi Function' by Royston H.  
Low.
- 11 Dec. 'Whose Mind? Some striking mediumistic Material' by V.  
P. Underwood, Ph.D.



GENERAL MEETINGS

(open to Members of the Society and to the public)

- 21 May    Presidential Address by Dr Gilbert Murray, O.M.  
4 June    11th Frederic W. H. Myers Memorial Lecture. 'Psychical  
            Research Past and Present' by Dr R. H. Thouless.  
16 July    'Survival and the idea of "Another World"' by Professor H.  
            H. Price, F.B.A.  
29 Oct.    'Phantasms of the Living and of the Dead' by Professor C.  
            D. Broad, Litt.D., F.B.A.  
19 Nov.    'My Thirty Years of Psychical Research: a personal record'  
            by S. G. Soal, D.Sc.
- 

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRIAN  
S.P.R.

The Austrian Society for Psychical Research (Oesterreichische Gesellschaft für Psychische Forschung) celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on 2 December 1952 by a special meeting. The Society's first President, Professor Hans Thirring, the distinguished physicist, delivered the principal address, and lectures were given by Professor Gustav Entz, Professor Hubert Urban, Dr Gerda Walther, and Countess Zoe Wassilko-Sereki.

SUBJECTS WANTED FOR ESP EXPERIMENTS

Mr Alan J. Mayne, of 7 Spencer Road, Bromley, Kent, a member of the Society, is planning some large-scale ESP tests, and will be glad if as many members and their friends as possible will take part in them.

He will act as agent for a 50-day test, starting on Sunday, 22 March, and ending on Sunday, 10 May, in which a set of 25 standard ESP symbols will be exposed on each day. Each of these will be chosen at random, so that there will not necessarily be 5 of each kind in the target pack. Subjects for this test need not inform him previously. They may guess on as many or as few of the 50 days as they wish, at any time of day, and at any rate they like. They should, however, record on the score sheet (*a*) their name and address, and, for each day on which they take part, (*b*) the date, (*c*) the time of day (to the nearest hour, stating whether a.m. or p.m.), and (*d*) the time taken (to the nearest 5 seconds) to complete the run of 25. They should send in their guesses as soon as possible after the last day on which they intend to take part in the test. They will be informed of the chief results in due course.

Any member wishing to take part in subsequent tests with ESP symbols, coloured designs, and objects should communicate with Mr Mayne.

## APPEAL FOR BACK NUMBERS

If any members have copies of the following issues and no longer require them, the Secretary would be most grateful for their return :

### JOURNAL

- |             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| No. 610-11. | January-February 1945. |
| No. 612-13. | March-April 1945.      |
| No. 615.    | June 1945.             |
| No. 617.    | October 1945.          |
| No. 620-1.  | January-February 1946. |

### PROCEEDINGS

- Part 167
- Part 171
- Part 174
- Part 176

# Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square · London · WC1

## SUPPLEMENT

TO

## JOURNAL

July-October 1953, Vol. 37, No. 676

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, on Wednesday, 29 April 1953, at 3 p.m., under the chairmanship of Lord Charles Hope.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the Meeting, the Report of the Council and the Accounts were presented. After a discussion in which Dr E. J. Dingwall, Mr H. Gatliff, Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mrs F. Heywood, Mr P. S. Seward, Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt, and the Hon. Charles Strutt took part, the Hon. Secretary, Mr W. H. Salter, moved the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts which was seconded by Admiral Strutt and carried unanimously.

The Chairman announced that there were no candidates for election to membership of the Council other than the six members who retired by rotation and who offered themselves for re-election, and on the proposal of Mr Salter, seconded by Lord Charles Hope, the following six members were accordingly unanimously elected: Professor C. D. Broad, Professor E. R. Dodds, Mrs F. Heywood, Miss I. Jephson, Mr Denys Parsons, and Professor H. H. Price. On the proposal of Mrs Salter, seconded by Admiral Strutt, Messrs Miall, Harper & Co. were re-elected Auditors for the forthcoming year.

### MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Meetings of the Council were held as follows:

479th	11 Oct. 1952	Chairman: Professor H. H. Price.
480th	19 Nov. 1952	Chairman: Dr S. G. Soal.
481st	19 Jan. 1953	Chairman: Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.
482nd	27 Feb. 1953	Chairman: Mrs W. H. Salter.
483rd	17 Apl. 1953	Chairman: Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt followed by Dr S. G. Soal.
484th	29 Apl. 1953	Chairman: Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.
485th	29 Apl. 1953	Chairman: Lord Charles Hope.



At the meeting of the Council held on 17 April 1953 the following co-optations to the Council were renewed for the year : Mr G. W. Fisk, the Hon. Mrs Gay, Professor A. C. Hardy, Mr J. Fraser Nicol, Mr A. T. Oram, Mr Edward Osborn, Mr K. E. Shelley, the Hon. Charles Strutt, and Dr D. J. West.

At the meeting of the Council on 29 April 1953, Mrs W. H. Salter was elected a Vice-President of the Society.

At the meeting of the Council held immediately after the Annual General Meeting on 29 April 1953 the following were elected :

#### PRESIDENT

Professor F. J. M. Stratton, D.S.O., F.R.S.

#### HONORARY OFFICERS

*Hon. Treasurer*, Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

*Hon. Secretaries*, Mr W. H. Salter and Mr Denys Parsons.

*Hon. Editor of 'Proceedings'*, Mrs W. H. Salter.

#### COMMITTEES

*Committee of Reference and Publication* : Professor C. D. Broad, Mrs F. Heywood, Mr Denys Parsons, Professor H. H. Price, Mr W. H. Salter, Mrs W. H. Salter, Dr S. G. Soal, Dr R. H. Thouless, and Dr D. J. West.

*Finance Committee* : Mrs K. M. Goldney, Lord Charles Hope, Mr G. W. Lambert, and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt (Convener).

*House Committee* : Mrs K. M. Goldney (Convener), Miss I. Jephson, Mr Edward Osborn, Mr W. H. Salter, and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

*Publicity Committee* : Mr Edward Osborn, Mr Denys Parsons (Convener), Mr R. S. W. Pollard, and Mrs A. W. Stevens.

*Physical Phenomena, Poltergeists and Haunts Committee* : Mrs Gatty, Mrs F. Heywood, Lord Charles Hope (Convener), Mr E. Osborn, Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt, the Hon. Charles Strutt, Professor F. J. M. Stratton, and Dr R. Wilson.

*Research Committee* : Mr G. W. Fisk, Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mr E. Osborn, Mr D. Parsons, Dr S. G. Soal, and Dr D. J. West (Convener).

#### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Mrs E. W. Allison

Dr T. N. E. Greville

Dr G. H. Hyslop

Dr C. G. Jung

Count von Klinckowstroem

Rudolph Lambert

Professor Gardner Murphy

Dr J. B. Rhine

Admiral A. Tanagras

Dr W. H. C. Tenhaeff

Dr R. Tischner

Mr Carl Vett

R. Warcollier

Dr Th. Wereide

Dr Chr. Winther

HONORARY ASSOCIATES

Mrs Whately Carington  
Miss H. Carruthers  
Mrs L. A. Dale  
Dr G. de Boni  
Dr Betty Humphrey  
The Rev. W. S. Irving  
Miss M. Phillimore

Mrs K. Richmond  
Professor C. M. Sage  
Mr Basil Shackleton  
Mr G. H. Spinney  
Dr R. H. Thouless  
Miss Nea Walker

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

*Held at 31 Tavistock Square*

- 254th Thursday, 11 December 1952, at 6.30 p.m. Dr V. P. Underwood: 'Whose Mind? Some Striking Mediumistic Material'.  
255th Thursday, 22 January 1953, at 6.30 p.m. Mr Denis Chesters: 'Psychological Implications of Psychical Research'.  
256th Thursday, 12 February 1953, at 6.30 p.m. Mr Royston Low and Mr K. Kellar: 'The "Spirit Electronic Communicator"'.  
257th Thursday, 5 March 1953, at 6.30 p.m. Mr Geoffrey Murray: 'Psychical Research and its Treatment by the Press'.  
258th Thursday, 26 March 1953, at 6.30 p.m. The Rev. Joseph Crehan, S.J.: 'Fr Thurston and the Abnormal Faculties of Man'.  
259th Thursday, 30 April 1953, at 6.30 p.m. Dr D. J. West: 'The Application of Psychiatry to Psychical Research'.  
260th Thursday, 21 May 1953, at 6.30 p.m. Mr F. Claude Palmer: 'Unconscious Factors in ESP'.

NEW MEMBERS

MEMBERS

*Elected 11 October 1952)*

ACTON, J. W., 22 Warwick Square, London, S.W. 1.  
CHISNALL, J. A., 42 Coombe Road, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey.  
GARROW, D. H., M.B., M.R.C.P., 13 Tregunter Road, London, S.W. 10.  
HUNNYBUN, C., 23 Earning Street, Godmanchester, Hunts.  
RAWSON, W. I. S., M.A., Ph.D., 7 Harley Street, London, W. 1.  
ROSE, LOUIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 45 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.  
WINDER, ROLAND, Parkstone, Park Avenue, Leeds 8.

MEMBERS

*(Elected 19 November 1952)*

BETAMBEAU, P.C., 130 Marlow Road, Anerley, London, S.E. 20.  
CAHN, H. A., 5145 Aldrich Ave S., Minneapolis 19, Minn., U.S.A.  
CONNICK, L., The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn., U.S.A.

- GATLIFF, H., 28 Meadway Court, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London, N.W. 11.  
GROBEL, MRS A., 23 Kenilworth Court, Lower Richmond Road, London, S.W. 15.  
HASTINGS, R. J., Tan-y-coed, Llandre, Cardiganshire.  
HAYDEN, P. D. W., 12 Sydney Crescent, Hamble, nr Southampton, Hants.  
HIGGS, E. W., 5 Hanbury Crescent, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton.  
HOLROYD, J., 37 Newstead Place, Halifax, Yorks.  
JOBING, THE HON. MR JUSTICE, Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C. 2.  
PRICE, E. ALAN, M.B., 49/99 Haverstock Hill, London, N.W. 3.  
PULLAR, A. J. G., M.B., P.O. Box 647, Nairobi, Kenya.  
RAPKINS, G. A. E., 1 Elm Bank Gardens, Barnes, London, S.W. 13.  
SURETIES, B. P., B.A., 157 Valley Road, Kenley, Surrey.  
WARNE, R. B., Progress Bungalow, Kirklees Street, Tottington, nr Bury, Lancs.

STUDENT-ASSOCIATE

- HARRISON, J. P. HYDE, 113 Biddulph Mansions, Elgin Avenue, London, W. 9.

MEMBERS

*(Elected 19 January 1953)*

- DONALDSON, J. G. S., Burden Court Farm, Tresham, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos.  
FOOTIT, R. L. C., B.A., The Old Vicarage, Patricxbourne, nr Canterbury, Kent.  
GILL, F. R., B.Sc., 78 Brookhouse Road, Fulwood, Sheffield 10.  
GOW, COLIN C., B.Sc., 72 Courtfield Gardens, London, S.W. 5.  
GRAINER, MAX, 58 Richmond Street, Accrington, Lancs.  
GURNEY, MISS M. E., 3 Wildcroft, Blundellsands Road East, Liverpool 23.  
RINGGER, P., Ph.D., Rebbergstr. 21, Oberengstringen-Zurich, Switzerland.  
ROBINSON, MISS E. G., 27 Linden Gardens, London, W. 2.  
SERGEANT, G. A., M.Sc., 70 Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W. 7.  
SHELTON, J. E., 15 Fardell Road, Scunthorpe, Lincs.  
THOMAS, W. BRYDE, Ph.D., D.D., 11 Woodland Way, West Wickham, Kent.  
WILSON, S. R. W., Two Fields, Whelpley Hill, Chesham, Bucks.  
WRIGHT, N. H., 40 Devonshire Street West, Keighley, Yorks.

STUDENT-ASSOCIATE

- TAYLOR, PETER J., 2 Grange Road, Bushey, Herts.

MEMBERS

*(Elected 27 February 1953)*

- COXHEAD, G. W., 5 Rochester Avenue, Bromley, Kent.  
DE VIBRAYE, COMTESSE FRANCOIS, c/o Banque Crédit Commercial de France, 103 Champs Elysées, Paris, France.



- FULLER, CURTIS, 806 Dempster Street, Evanston, Ill., U.S.A.  
LARSEN, J., P.W.D., Kaduna, Nigeria.  
LEIGH, J. P., 18 Osborne Road, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent.  
LILICK, IRA S., 198 Elena Avenue, Atherton, California, U.S.A.  
NORTH, R. A. C., C.M.G., Glen Huntley, Manning Road, Killara, N.S.W., Australia.  
ROBERTSON, MRS. DAVID, 42 King's Court North, Chelsea, London, S.W. 3.  
SEGGER, MRS E. C., 2 Church Avenue, Mile End Road, Ipswich.  
STONES, W., B.Sc., 17 Highfield View, Brinsworth Road, Catcliffe, nr Rotherham, Yorks.  
TRENCHARD, MRS E. M., 3 King's Avenue, Falmouth, Cornwall.  
WHITEMAN, J. H. M., M.A., Ph.D., 1 Woodlands Close, Pinelands, C.P., South Africa.  
WOOD, MRS IRENE M., 165 Mallorca Way, San Francisco 23, Calif., U.S.A.

#### STUDENT-ASSOCIATES

- GELLSTEIN, BERNARD, 3 Cobden Road, Chesterfield.  
RANSOME, NORMAN E., Exeter College, Oxford.

#### MEMBERS

*(Elected 17 April 1953)*

- AMADOU, ROBERT, 363 Avenue d'Argenteuil, Bois-Colombes (Seine), France.  
COOPER, G. F., 67 Cottenham Park Road, London, S.W. 20.  
GUELKE, MRS. E. A., Billbrook House, Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham, Glos.  
KOHSEN, MISS ANITA, M.A., 15 Park Square East, London, N.W. 1.  
PAGE, A. J., B.A., The Gate House, Holcombe, Dawlish, Devon.  
POBERS, DR MICHEL, Parapsychology Foundation, 11 East 44th Street, New York 17, U.S.A.  
RUGMAN, LADY, 38 Devonshire Place Mews, London, W. 1.  
WOLFF, DR NATHANIEL S., Lope de Vega 330, Mexico City 5, D.F., Mexico.

#### STUDENT-ASSOCIATE

- HILL, STANLEY L., 66 Seventh Street, Northmead, Benoni, Transvaal, South Africa.

#### MEMBERS

*(Elected 29 April 1953)*

- BAKER, JOHN, 35 Wellington Square, Chelsea, London, S.W. 3.  
GAYTHORPE, S. N., 7 Holders Road, Amesbury, Wilts.  
WATERS, HUGH, M.A., 75 Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 7.  
WEATHERHEAD, THE REV. LESLIE D., M.A., Ph.D., D.D., 7 Kingsgate Avenue, Finchley, London, N. 3.  
WILKINS, L. J., 47 Links Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts.

## PROCEEDINGS FOR SALE

A former member of the Society, Mr A. Harris, 12 Park Avenue, Southport, Lancs, has for sale a complete run of the *Proceedings* from Volume 1 to Volume 46 inclusive (1882-1941). All the volumes are bound and are in excellent condition. The price asked is fifteen guineas, including carriage.







# Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square • London • WC1

## SUPPLEMENT

TO

## JOURNAL

November-December 1953, Vol. 37, No. 677

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

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### BOUND VOLUMES OF THE JOURNAL

As some early volumes have gone out of print and others are now in short supply, members who wish to possess any of those still available should order them from the Secretary without delay.

#### AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS ONLY

Vol. 2, 1885-6	12s. 6d.
Vol. 3, 1887-8 (no index)	12s. 6d.
Vols. 6-21, 1893-1924 (16 volumes)	12s. 6d. each
Vols. 22-3, 1925-6 (bound together)	12s. 6d.
Vol. 24, 1927-8	12s. 6d.
Vols. 25-6, 1929-30 (bound together)	12s. 6d.
Vols. 27-34, 1931-48 (8 volumes)	12s. 6d. each

Volumes 1, 4, and 5 are out of print

Single issues in Volumes 1-34 are no longer available

#### AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Vol. 35, 1949-50	Full price 25s. To members 12s. 6d.
Vol. 36, 1951-2	Full price 25s. To members 12s. 6d.

In ordering, sixpence per volume should be allowed for posting and packing.

### ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

(excluding books reviewed in the *Journal*)

- BARCLAY, VERA. *Challenge to the Darwinians*. Newport, Mon., R. J. Johns, 1951. xvi, 296 pp.
- BERNARD, THEOS. *Hatha Yoga*. London, Rider, 1950. 104 pp. Illus.

- ii      *Supplement to Journal, Nov.-Dec. 1953, Vol. 37, No. 677*
- BJÖRKHEM, JOHN. *De Hypnotiska Hallucinationerna*. Lund, Gleerup, 1942. 268 pp.
- CARRINGTON, HERWARD. *Psychic Oddities*. London, Rider, 1952. 183 pp.
- DUCASSE, C. J. *A Philosophical Scrutiny of Religion*. New York, Ronald Press, 1953. x, 441 pp.
- JUNG, CARL G. *The Integration of the Personality*. Trans. by Stanley Dell. London, Routledge, 1940. 313 pp. Illus.
- LEVINSON, HORACE C. *The Science of Chance. From Probability to Statistics*. London, Faber, 1952. 304 pp.
- MAURY, MARGUERITA. *How to Dowse : Experimental and Practical Radiesthesia*. London, Bell, 1953. viii, 184 pp.
- MURRAY, GEOFFREY. *Matters of Life and Death : an Enquiry into Spiritualism, Faith Healing and Psychic Research To-day*. London, Sidgwick & Jackson, 1953. 200 pp.
- POLLACK, LUBY. *Your Normal Mind. Its Tricks and Quirks*. London, Rider, 1953. xiv, 224 pp.
- PRICE, H. H. *Thinking and Experience*. London, Hutchinson's University Library, 1953. 365 pp.
- SNELL, BRUNO. *The Discovery of the Mind : The Greek Origins of European Thought*. Translated from the German. Oxford, Blackwell, 1953. xii, 324 pp.
- TENHAEFF, W. H. C. *Inleiding tot de Parapsychologie*. Utrecht, Erven J. Bijleveld, 1952. 162 pp.
- WALTER, W. GREY. *The Living Brain*. London, Duckworth, 1953. xi, 216 pp. Illus.
- WEATHERHEAD, LESLIE D. *Psychology, Religion and Healing*. London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1951. 544 pp.
- WHITE, VICTOR. *God and the Unconscious*. Foreword by C. G. Jung, Appendix on Analytical Psychology by Gebhard Frei. London. Harvill Press, 1952. xxv, 277 pp.
- WOODARD, CHRISTOPHER. *A Doctor Heals by Faith*. London, Parrish, 1953. 171 pp.

## MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

- 486th 19 June 1953 Chairman : The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.
- 487th 26 Aug. 1953 Chairman : Mr Denys Parsons.

At the meeting of the Council held on 26 August 1953 Dr D. J. West was appointed an elected member of Council.

At the meeting of the Council held on 26 August 1953 a Library Committee was appointed as follows : Dr E. J. Dingwall (*Convener*), Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mr A. T. Oram, and Mr Edward Osborn.



## MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

*Held at 31 Tavistock Square*

- 261st    Monday, 27 July 1953, at 6.30 p.m. Dr R. McConnell:  
          'The Attitude of United States Physicists to Psi Phenomena.'  
262nd    Thursday, 24 September 1953, at 6.30 p.m. Mr George  
          Zorab: 'The Resurrection Narratives in the light of Psychi-  
          cal Research.'

## NEW MEMBERS

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 19 June 1953)*

- ASHTON, E., 46A Chartfield Avenue, Putney, London, S.W. 15.  
BRIGHT, F. W., 59 Culverhay, Ashstead, Surrey.  
GREARSON, D. F., B.A., 56 Bushey Avenue, South Woodford, London,  
E. 18.  
MATTHEWS, MRS BRYAN, B.A., c/o The Deanery, St Paul's, London,  
E.C. 4.  
MURRAY, MRS O. G., 42 Kelvin Court, Glasgow, W. 2.  
PHILLIPS, N. F., 'Yafford', 23 Lavidge Road, Mottingham, London,  
S.E. 9.  
SPEDDING, BRIGADIER C. F. C., United Service Club, Pall Mall,  
London, S.W. 1.  
SPEETH, SHERIDAN D., 3579 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland, Ohio,  
U.S.A.  
TOWNLEY, MRS C. E., Fulbourn Manor, Cambridge.  
WASSERMANN, DR G. D., King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1.  
WIMBRIDGE, L. H., 53 Marlborough Crescent, Bedford Park, London,  
W. 4.  
WOODS, S. G., 6 Barclay Road, Croydon, Surrey.

### STUDENT-ASSOCIATES

- Crawford, R. W. H., B.A., Kingsmead, Washingborough, Lincoln.  
Dennis, G. E., 11 Linton Road, Oxford.  
Lapinsky, A., 53 Mowbray Avenue, Benoni, Transvaal, South Africa.

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 26 August 1953)*

- BARNARD, MISS ALISON M., 4 Wimpole Mews, London, W. 1.  
BROOKES, MISS F., M.A., 46 North Park, Eltham, London, S.E. 9.  
CAMPBELL, LT-COLONEL N. D. H., 53 Addison Road, London, W. 14.  
FISK, MRS J. L. JUDD, 4 Elm Park Gardens, Chelsea, London, S.W. 10.  
HART, PROFESSOR HORNELL, 4653 Duke Station, Durham, N.C., U.S.A.  
HUXLEY, ALDOUS L., 740 North Kings Road, Los Angeles 46, Cali-  
fornia, U.S.A.

LEVITT, MRS N., 28 Campden Hill Gate, London, W. 8.

LIBRARIAN, First Spiritual Temple, 26 Exeter Street, Boston 16, Mass.,  
U.S.A.

LINDO, F. C., 25 Eaton Place, London, S.W. 1.

SWEET, S. M., 9 Richmond Avenue, Montpelier, Bristol 6.

### ‘APPARITIONS’

As stated on p. 224 of the November-December issue of the *Journal*, the Myers Memorial Lecture by the late G. N. M. Tyrrell is to be re-issued in November by Gerald Duckworth & Co. The Council have arranged for a special edition in paper covers to be supplied by Messrs Duckworth and for a copy to be sent to members elected since the Lecture was first published by the Society in 1943.

The standard edition, bound in cloth and published at 12s. 6d., may be obtained from the Secretary (13s. by post). As it is not published by the Society, it is not possible for it to be supplied at a reduced price.

We have received the following communication :

Oct. 19, 1953

We desire to protest against the publication, in the *Sunday Pictorial*, of articles drawn from G. N. M. Tyrrell’s Myers Memorial Lecture (*Apparitions*) and published in this way with the approval of the Society for Psychical Research. The Society may have the legal right to allow this, but neither G. N. M. Tyrrell’s literary executor nor his widow were consulted about it. We feel certain this sensational publication would have been extremely distasteful to him.

G. M. JOHNSON  
C. M. TYRRELL

[The Council have always been anxious that serious work in psychical research, of which Mr Tyrrell’s *Apparitions* is a distinguished example, should be known to a wider public than our members, and they have welcomed articles on it that have from time to time appeared in the national press. The subject of Apparitions is one in which the general public is deeply interested but most ill-informed. In arranging therefore for some articles on Mr Tyrrell’s Lecture to be printed in a widely-read weekly paper the Officers of the Society hoped both to dispel popular misunderstanding and possibly to encourage some readers of the articles to make first-hand acquaintance with research of the highest quality. They stipulated that the text of the articles should be approved by them before publication. They deeply regret that their action has caused distress to two ladies who have rendered such great service to psychical research as Mrs Tyrrell and Miss G. M. Johnson.

W. H. S.]

# Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square · London · WC1

SUPPLEMENT

TO

JOURNAL

March-April 1954, Vol. 37, No. 679

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1953

### I. THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL STUDIES

THE most important event of 1953 was the International Conference of Parapsychological studies, organized by the Parapsychology Foundation of New York, which met at Utrecht in July and August. Representatives of fifteen nations met for a week as guests of the Foundation, and those invited included a large number of members of our Society both from the United Kingdom and from other countries. The chairman was our former President, Professor Gardner Murphy, and other of our members were Chairmen of the different working groups. A fuller report has been printed in the *Journal* for November-December 1953.

Psychical research, like other studies, tends to develop on different lines in different countries, and there is a need for periodical meetings between researchers of various nations to prevent divergences which might hinder mutual understanding of the problems on which all are engaged. The Utrecht Conference, which was skilfully organized to facilitate personal contacts, was of great value in this respect, especially as arrangements were made for groups interested in particular branches of our subject to keep in touch with each other, and so to prepare the ground for the second Conference, to be held in four or five years time.

Of particular interest to the S.P.R. is the small conference it has undertaken to organize in 1955 to consider methods of investigating and reporting spontaneous cases.

Several of those who took part in the Conference paid welcome visits to London, including Dr R. A. McConnell, Head of the Department of Biophysics at Pittsburgh University, Mrs Eileen Garrett and Dr Pobers, of the Foundation, Mr Zorab of the Dutch S.P.R., Mrs Dorothy Pope, Managing Editor of the *Journal of Parapsychology*, Mr Fraser Nicol, and



Dr Betty Humphrey. At meetings of the Society, Dr McConnell and Mr Zorab read papers of which particulars are given on page xi.

## 2. RESEARCH

### *Experimental Work*

A notable feature of the year was the publication of three reports of experiments employing a new technique introduced by Mr G. W. Fisk, one of the Society's most active and successful experimenters. By using the hours on a clock face as the targets, it is possible to note not only direct hits on the target ('bull's-eyes') but also divergences from it ('near-misses'). This method of distinguishing between different ways of scoring, which is not possible with standard ESP cards, may take a step further our inquiries into the *modus operandi* of ESP. The new clock card tests yielded significant results the first time they were applied, and reports by Mr Fisk and Mr A. M. J. Mitchell on the first two experiments were published in the *Journal* for January-February and March-April 1953. In the second, which was an experiment in PK, the scores were better than any so far obtained in Britain, and one subject, Dr J. Blundun, was outstandingly successful over a long period.

The third experiment, in which Dr D. J. West collaborated with Mr Fisk, was of particular interest in that it was designed to investigate the alleged influence of the experimenter himself on a percipient's scores. A series of identically sealed packs of cards were sent to twenty subjects who were unaware that half of the packs were made up, in random order, by Dr West and half by Mr Fisk. Each experimenter assessed the scores on his own packs and all score sheets and figures were re-checked by Miss A. Nangie. The results were interesting, for while the twenty subjects as a whole scored positively and significantly on Mr Fisk's packs there was only an insignificant negative score on Dr West's. But there was one exceptional subject who scored equally well with both experimenters. As her two scores were so outstanding—odds against chance in each case being of the order of one hundred thousand to one—it is difficult to assume that the results were a mere fluke, especially as the subject in question had made consistently highly significant scores in previous experiments. A full account is given in the *Journal* for November-December 1953.

A more detailed analysis by Dr West of the effects discovered in the 'Home-testing' ESP experiments of 1950-2 was published in the January-February issue of the *Journal*. In the July-August issue, Mr A. M. J. Mitchell reported the results obtained with the one high-scoring subject found in these experiments.

The Council made a grant of £75 to Mr W. G. Roll, the President of the Oxford University Society for Psychical Research, for experimental work he was undertaking.

On 17 February Mr L. T. Wilkins, a statistician of the Government Social Survey, gave a talk and carried out a short exploratory experiment with a group of members to investigate pattern habits in the writing out of lists of random numbers.

Mr Fraser Nicol, a member of the Council at present in the United

States, collaborated with Dr Betty Humphrey in an experiment designed to test the correlation of personality factors with ESP ability. Their report, which was presented to the International Conference of Parapsychological Studies at Utrecht, was published in the *Journal* of the American Society for Psychical Research for October 1953. The research was financed by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and the American Society.

#### *Spontaneous Cases, Mediumship, etc.*

The Organizing Secretary, on behalf of the Committee for investigating Haunts and Poltergeists (Chairman, Lord Charles Hope), has conducted a large number of interviews throughout the year in response to letters asking for advice or help. Shortage of staff and the expense of adequate investigation have prevented all but a few of the most interesting cases being followed up closely. It should be realized by members that a proper inquiry usually involves not only as a preliminary a good deal of correspondence and perhaps interviews as well, but several visits to the place from which the incidents are reported, or even a visit extending continuously over several days. It is practically impossible for the Officers of the Society to undertake such an inquiry without general dislocation of the Society's business. Moreover, it has long been supposed and is now generally accepted that inner psychological conflict in one of the members of the household is very often an element in such cases, and this adds greatly to the difficulty of investigation owing to the unwillingness of the person in question, and perhaps of his friends and relations, to consider a psychological inquiry. Desire for privacy also frequently prevents the printing of interesting material, even where a guarantee is given that there shall be no disclosure of the identity of persons or places. These considerations greatly increase the Society's debt of gratitude to those members who have been so good as to conduct preliminary investigations and report them to the Society and, in promising cases, to proceed to a closer inquiry. Among such cases may be mentioned an investigation carried out by the President with a rota of helpers each night throughout one week into a case referred to the Society, and a painstaking inquiry conducted by three Scottish members, Mr P. J. McEwan, Mr J. D. Matheson, and Mr Robert Ross into phenomena of a 'physical' nature. In the former, the outcome was inconclusive; a report on the latter will, it is hoped, appear in the *Journal*.

Mrs Gay is at present conducting object-reading tests with mediums in the hope of securing material which can be evaluated objectively by the method devised by Pratt and Birge.

#### *Psychic Healing*

Dr Louis Rose has continued his investigation into the work of Harry Edwards and other psychic healers. He presented a paper at the Utrecht Conference entitled 'A Preliminary Approach to the Study of "Healing" '.

In this connexion may be mentioned the Church of England Commission on Divine Healing, appointed in the autumn by the Archbishops of

Canterbury and York. Members of the Commission include three members of the Society: Canon L. W. Grensted, Dr J. A. Hadfield, and Dr R. H. Thouless.

### 3. THE PRESS, BROADCASTING, ETC.

Dr D. J. West, Mr G. W. Fisk, and Mr G. Spencer Brown took part in a broadcast on 'Telepathy' on 21 April in the Home Service of the B.B.C. The programme was broadcast from the Medical Students' Club, St Thomas's Hospital, and was one in a series entitled 'Is there Anything in it?'

In October, Mr Fisk and Mr Denys Parsons assisted in the presentation, in the B.B.C.'s Television Service, of Fisk's Clock card method of testing ESP. The agent and percipient were identical twins taking part in the series 'Science in the Making'.

In the B.B.C.'s Third Programme in September Professor H. H. Price and Mr Stuart Hampshire, a Fellow of New College, Oxford, discussed 'Psychical Research and Philosophy'.

### 4. FINANCE

The accounts show that the total excess of expenditure over income of the three Funds (Blennerhassett, Research, and General) taken together is £395, whereas in the previous year we had an excess of income over expenditure of £159. This is mainly accounted for by the very big figure for printing as compared with last year, a difference which was largely due to the extra publications issued in connexion with the Seventieth Anniversary of the Society. Binding costs rose by £202, but this was well covered by an increase of £326 from the sale of bound volumes of *Proceedings* and *Journal* (see p. x). House repairs, stipulated by the lease, caused an increase of £130 over the 1952 figure.

The Council wish to express their great appreciation of the donations which many members have regularly made in addition to the annual subscription.

### 5. LECTURES BY MEMBERS

The Society is frequently consulted by organizations of various kinds in many different parts of the country with requests for lectures on psychical research. Distance and the pressure of other work on our members often, to the Council's regret, make it impossible to meet all these requests. Among members of the Council who found it possible to give lectures during the year were Dr Soal, Mr Parsons, Mrs Heywood, Mr Lambert, and Mrs Goldney.

Mrs Goldney, assisted by Dr West, gave an account of the work of the Society to some fifty members of the London Appreciation Society at 31 Tavistock Square on 18 April. The infra-red telescope was demonstrated.



## 6. UNIVERSITY SOCIETIES

### *Oxford University Society for Psychical Research*

During 1953 the Society was addressed by Dr R. H. Thouless, Mr L. A. G. Strong, Mr Kenneth Walker, Dr R. W. Kosterlitz, Professor John Wisdom, Mrs L. J. Bendit, The Rev. Canon L. W. Grensted, Mr W. G. Roll, Mr D. G. Spencer Brown, Professor F. J. M. Stratton, Mrs M. Kneale, and Dr E. J. Dingwall. Two group experiments on Personality Traits and Extrasensory Perception were also held.

The Society's Officers were: *President* : W. G. Roll; *Secretary* : P. R. F. Clarke (till June) and A. P. de H. Collett (from October); *Treasurer* : S. Moorbath (till June) and N. E. Ransome (from October).

### *Cambridge University Society for Psychical Research*

In the Cambridge Society's programme meetings were addressed by Dr J. Hettinger, Professor H. H. Price, Dr R. H. Thouless, Mr W. H. Salter, Dr Ian Fletcher, and Dr C. F. Newbold.

The Society's Officers were: *President* : Professor C. D. Broad (till June) and Dr R. H. Thouless (from October); *Secretary* : Trevor L. K. White (till June) and T. D. West (from October); *Treasurer* : W. M. Lister (till June) and F. P. Jenkin (from October); *Experimental Officer* : R. Rendell (till June) and A. O. Gauld (from October).

## 7. THE PRESIDENCY

Professor F. J. M. Stratton, D.S.O., F.R.S., one of the senior members of the Society, was elected President for the year 1953-4, and delivered his Presidential Address entitled 'Psychical Research: a Lifelong Interest' on 28 October at Manson House, Portland Place, W.1. This has since been published in Part 184 of *Proceedings*.

The Hon. Editor of *Proceedings*, Mrs W. H. Salter, who has been an Officer or Hon. Officer of the Society since 1908, and Hon. Editor of *Proceedings* since 1921, was elected a Vice-President of the Society.

## 8. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Council lost by death the Rev. C. Drayton Thomas, an obituary notice of whom has been printed in the *Journal*. Vacancies among the elected members of the Council were filled by the appointment of Dr Richard Wilson and Dr D. J. West. Mr A. T. Oram and the Hon. Charles Strutt were co-opted members of the Council.

## 9. OBITUARY

Among members who had done valuable work for the Society or had been associated with it for a very long time, the Council regret to record the loss in addition to Mr Drayton Thomas, of Sir Robert Gower, a former member of the Council, Mrs A. W. Stevens, a member of the

[illegible][illegible]

£509	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS (Net)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£509 12 4
—	GRANT REFUNDED BY A. T. ORAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 0 0
13	INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND RECOVERABLE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 13 2
<hr/>									
£522	TOTAL INCOME	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£532 5 6
<hr/>									
<i>Less EXPENDITURE :</i>									
£53	Travelling and General Research Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49 8 3
37	Grant to Dr Phyllis Croft for report on human radiations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12 10 0
—	Grant to Dr West for additional Research	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150 0 0
100	Grant to J. Fraser Nicol for PK Inquiry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	— — 0
—	Grant to W. G. Roll for Experimental Work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75 0 0
Contributions towards General Fund:									
82	Secretarial Assistant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84 0 0
4	Sundry Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 14 9
<hr/>									
276		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£372 13 0
<hr/>									
£246	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£159 12 6

GENERAL FUND									
SUBSCRIPTIONS		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Members	1950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£3 0 5
	1951	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14 3 8
	1952	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139 15 6
	1953	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,452 0 9
Associates		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13 11 7
	1953	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82 16 5
									96 8 0
£1,637	PROPORTION OF LIFE MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£1,705 8 4
273	INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52 0 0
224	INTEREST ON BANK DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	228 9 5
13	INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND RECOVERABLE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14 16 5
56	CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT'S SALARY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65 11 6
82	SUBLET RENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84 0 0
225	TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£2,375 5 8
£2,510	DONATIONS (Annual)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Life Members	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£28 7 1
	Members	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	209 4 11
£310	Associates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19 18 6
	LEGACY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	257 10 6
14	ROYALTIES FROM THE BOOKS OF THE LATE SIR WILLIAM BARRETT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	121 2 3
	SALE OF BOOKS AND WASTE PAPER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 8 0
1	FEES FROM PRESS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL INCOME									£2,755 6 0

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS (cont'd)

1952		TOTAL INCOME (brought forward)	-	-	-	-	£2,755	6	5
£2,835		Less EXPENDITURE :							
		OFFICE EXPENSES :							
£240		Rent	-	-	-	-	£240	0	0
69		Rates	-	-	-	-	76	6	0
24		Insurance	-	-	-	-	24	15	8
79		Fuel and Lighting	-	-	-	-	116	7	0
		Salaries (Secretary, Organizing Secretary, Secretarial Assistant, and Editor of <i>Journal</i> )	-	-	-	-	900	0	0
902		Clerical Assistance	-	-	-	-	28	11	1
50		Cleaning and Caretaker's Wages and Uniform	-	-	-	-	210	12	10
215		National Insurance	-	-	-	-	33	7	4
31		Stationery and General Printing	-	-	-	-	161	8	0
163		Telephone	-	-	-	-	28	1	3
18		Postages	-	-	-	-	199	9	0
157		Repairs	-	-	-	-	184	19	7
51		Sundry Expenses	-	-	-	-	55	4	6
35									
£2,034							£2,259	2	3
		COST OF PRINTING AND BINDING PUBLICATIONS AND PURCHASE OF BOOKS :							
£145		<i>Proceedings</i>	-	-	-	-	£410	11	7
653		<i>Journal</i>	-	-	-	-	813	18	11
38		Binding	-	-	-	-	240	7	4
4		Other Books and Pamphlets	-	-	-	-	77	4	3
£840							£1,542	2	1
293		Less Proceeds of Sales	-	-	-	-	618	15	6
							£923	6	7
£547									
£123		EXPENSES OF MEETINGS	-	-	-	-	10	1	8
26		AUDIT FEE	-	-	-	-	26	5	0
102		LIBRARY	-	-	-	-	41	18	2
43		LEGAL EXPENSES	-	-	-	-	30	3	0
£294							108	7	10
£2,875							£3,290	16	8
43		LOSS ON SALE OF WIRE RECORDER	-	-	-	-			
50		DEPRECIATION OF FURNITURE ETC.	-	-	-	-	45	13	2
93									
£2,968		TOTAL EXPENDITURE					£3,336	9	10
£133		EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	-	-	-	-	£581	3	5

## BALANCE SHEETS—31 DECEMBER 1953

## FREDERIC W. H. MYERS MEMORIAL FUND

1952		CURRENT ASSETS :							
£2		CASH AT BANK	-	-	-	-	£45	11	4
1,107		INVESTMENTS AT BOOK VALUE as per Schedule	-	-	-	-	1,106	17	6
		(Market Value at 31 December 1953 = £898 5 8)							
£1,109							£1,152	8	10
		CAPITAL AND ACCUMULATED INCOME :							
£1,151		Balance at 1 January 1953	-	-	-	-	£1,108	13	2
42		Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year to date as per Income and Expenditure Account	-	-	-	-	43	15	8
£1,109							£1,152	8	10

## BLENNERHASSETT RESEARCH FUND

## CURRENT ASSETS :

£164		CASH AT BANK	-	-	-	-	£39	6	7
11		INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE	-	-	-	-	11	8	11
1,510		INVESTMENT AT BOOK VALUE as per Schedule	-	-	-	-	1,660	0	0
		(Market Value at 31 December 1953 = £1,427 10 7)							
£1,685							£1,710	15	6

## CAPITAL AND ACCUMULATED INCOME :

£1,639		Balance at 1 January 1953	-	-	-	-	£1,684	13	3
46		Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year to date as per Income and Expenditure Account	-	-	-	-	26	2	3
£1,685							£1,710	15	6



## BALANCE SHEETS (cont'd)

## RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

1952

## CURRENT ASSETS :

£1,417	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND - - - - -	£1,582 10 11
6	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE - - - - -	6 3 2
17,644	INVESTMENTS AT BOOK VALUE as per Schedule - - - - -	17,643 10 4
	(Market Value at 31 December 1953 = £14,822 8 2)	
£19,067		£19,232 4 5

## CAPITAL AND ACCUMULATED INCOME :

£18,820	Balance at 1 January 1953 - - - - -	£19,066 11 11
	Add Premium on Defence Bonds - - - - -	6 0 0
247	Excess of Income over Expenditure for year to date as per Income and Expenditure Account - - - - -	159 12 6
£19,067		£19,232 4 5

## GENERAL FUND

## FIXED ASSETS :

£450	OFFICE FURNITURE ETC. at Cost - - - - -	£543 19 7
	(Purchases prior to 31 December 1946 remaining unvalued)	
94	Additions during year - - - - -	7 10 0
£544		551 9 7
95	Less Depreciation - - - - -	140 11 6
		£410 18 1
	LIBRARY BOOKS, EXPERIMENTAL AND TECHNICAL APPARATUS	Not valued
£449	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS - - - - -	£410 18 1

## CURRENT ASSETS :

£1,538	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND - - - - -	£930 13 11
17	AMOUNTS NOT YET RECEIVED FOR SALES OF PUBLICATIONS - - - - -	112 8 1
35	INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE - - - - -	45 7 6
12	PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE - - - - -	12 6 7
9,586	INVESTMENTS AT BOOK VALUE as per Schedule - - - - -	9,514 12 9
	(Market Value at 31 December 1953 = £8,594 6 11)	
£11,188		£10,615 8 10

## Less CURRENT LIABILITIES :

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT :

£1,208	Balance at 1 January 1953 - - - - -	£1,144 0 0
210	Add Life Subscriptions received during year to date - - - - -	84 0 0
		1,228 0 0
1,418	Less Transfer to Income and Expenditure Account - - - - -	52 0 0
274	Balance, being 50 % of existing Life Members' Subscriptions - - - - -	1,176 0 0
1,144	ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS IN ADVANCE - - - - -	115 18 11
147	SUNDRY CREDITORS - - - - -	50 5 10
60		£1,342 4 9
£1,351		9,273 4 8
9,837		£9,684 2 2
£10,286	TOTAL NET ASSETS - - - - -	

## CAPITAL :

## GENERAL FUND

£9,466	Balance at 1 January 1953 - - - - -	9,332 18 3
133	Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year to date as per Income and Expenditure Account - - - - -	581 3 5
	Transfer to Income Reserve Fund being Legacy and Anonymous Donations - - - - -	121 2 3
	Loss on Sale of Investment - - - - -	71 0 1
		773 5 9
£9,333	CARRIED FORWARD	£8,559 12 6

## BALANCE SHEETS (cont'd)

1952									
£9,333	INCOME RESERVE FUND				BROUGHT FORWARD			£8,559	12 6
£769	Balance at 1 January 1953	-	-	-	-	£768	17 5		
—	Add Transfer from General Fund	-	-	-	-	121	2 3		
								£889	19 8
184	SPECIAL DONATIONS:								
	Balance Unexpended	-	-	-	-	-	-	234	10 0
£10,286								£9,684	2 2

Note : No account has been taken of Post War Credits for Income Tax amounting to £2 15 0.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY FOR  
PSYCHICAL RESEARCH

In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Society so far as appears from our examination of those books. We have examined the above Balance Sheet and annexed Income and Expenditure Accounts which are in agreement with the books of account. We have been informed by the Bank that there is a balance on an Account in the name of the Society marked "Miss Newton Fund" of £73 10. This amount is not included in the above Accounts but we have been unable to ascertain whether this is an Account which should be under the control of the Society. Subject to the foregoing we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given us the said Accounts with the above reservation give the information required by the Companies Act, 1948, in the manner so required and the Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at 31 December 1953, and the Income and Expenditure Accounts give a true and fair view of the Society's revenue transactions during the year ended on that date. We have also verified the investments of the General, Research Endowment, Myers Memorial and Blennerhassett Funds.

MIALL, HARPER & CO.

Chartered Accountants.

Idol Lane, Eastcheap, London, E.C. 3.  
10 March 1954.

## SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

	Nominal	Book Value	Value 31 December 1953
<b>MYERS MEMORIAL FUND</b>			
31% Conversion Stock 1961	£250 0 0	£287 10 0	£213 18 2
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70	750 0 0	819 7 6	684 7 6
		£1,106 17 6	£898 5 8
<b>BLENNERHASSETT RESEARCH FUND</b>			
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88	1,695 13 1	£1,660 0 0	£1,427 10 7
<b>RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND</b>			
4% Consolidated Stock	1,460 0 0	£1,699 1 6	£1,362 7 3
3% Funding Stock 1959/69	2,300 0 0	2,804 2 6	2,126 1 3
31% War Stock 1952 or after	800 0 0	864 0 0	677 0 0
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978/88	6,626 1 5	6,472 17 11	5,578 6 2
British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1967/72	514 0 0	539 14 0	431 15 0
31% Defence Bonds	600 0 0	670 5 0	605 12 6
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70	3,157 9 2	3,449 9 5	2,881 3 7
Australia 2½% Stock 1967/71	995 2 9	1,040 10 0	837 2 7
2½% Consolidated Stock	504 3 8	403 10 0	322 19 10
		£17,643 10 4	£14,822 8 2
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
4% Consolidated Stock	86 11 11	£100 15 4	£80 15 3
York 3% Redeemable Stock 1955/65	800 0 0	848 0 0	792 0 0
Australia 3% Stock 1955/58	250 0 0	262 10 0	247 10 0
Nigeria 3% Stock 1955	1,200 0 0	1,272 0 0	1,194 0 0
3% Savings Bonds 1960/70	3,000 0 0	3,240 2 3	2,737 10 0
3% Savings Bonds 1955/65	1,664 12 4	1,703 10 3	1,614 13 6
Australia 3½% Registered Stock 1965/9	1,500 0 0	1,567 18 0	1,395 0 0
British Transport 4% Guaranteed Stock 1972/77	530 11 10	519 16 11	532 18 2
		£9,514 12 9	£8,594 6 11

Publicity Committee, the Rev. W. S. Irving, and Mr George P. Bidder. Obituary notices of the last two appear on pp. xii-xiii of this Supplement.

## 10. MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

During the year 84 Members and 7 Associates were elected, while the total loss in membership from deaths, resignations, and removals was 82. This results in a net increase of 10 in the total membership which now, including Honorary and Corresponding Members (17) and Hon. Associates (12), stands at 987.

## 11. PUBLICATIONS

A new edition of the late Mr G. N. M. Tyrrell's Myers Memorial lecture *Apparitions*, with a Preface by Professor H. H. Price, was issued by Gerald Duckworth & Co. on 12 November. A special edition in paper covers was sent at the Society's expense to all members elected since the publication of the original Lecture in 1943. The standard edition, bound in cloth, is published at 12s. 6d. and may be obtained from the Secretary.

Dr D. J. West's *Tests for Extrasensory Perception : an Introductory Guide*, published on 26 February, describes some of the standard methods, including the new Clock card technique, of conducting experiments, with a note on experiments in P.K. One copy of the booklet is available free to any member who applies for it.

Part 182 and Part 183 of *Proceedings*, five numbers of the *Journal*, and three Supplements (to Nos. 674, 676, and 677 of the *Journal*) were issued during the year.

There is a gratifying increase in the sale of the Society's publications to members and to the public, the amount this year being £619 compared with £293 the previous year. Included in the 1953 total is income from the sale to members of bound volumes of the *Proceedings* and the *Journal*. After an exhaustive check of the entire stock of back numbers, it was possible to make up and bind a number of volumes which had hitherto been incomplete, and many Library Members of the Society have taken advantage of the opportunity to complete their collections. Any members who require back volumes are advised to send their requirements to the Secretary without delay.

## 12. THE LIBRARY

The Council re-appointed a Library Committee consisting of the following members : Dr E. J. Dingwall (Convener), Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mr. A. T. Oram, and Mr Edward Osborn.

The number of books borrowed during the year by Members and Associates and by the National Central Library was 737.

### 13. MEETINGS

#### *Private Meetings*

- 22 Jan. 'Psychological Implications of Psychical Research' by Denis Chesters.  
 12 Feb. 'The "Spirit Electronic Communicator"' by Royston Low and K. Kellar.  
 5 Mar. 'Psychical Research and its treatment by the Press' by Geoffrey Murray.  
 26 Mar. 'Fr. Thurston and the abnormal faculties of Man' by Joseph Crehan, S.J.  
 30 April 'The Application of Psychiatry to Psychical Research' by D. J. West, M.B., D.P.M.  
 21 May 'Unconscious Factors in ESP' by F. Claude Palmer.  
 27 July 'The Attitude of United States Physicists to Psi Phenomena' by Dr R. A. McConnell.  
 24 Sept. 'The Resurrection Narratives in the light of Psychical Research' by George Zorab.  
 18 Nov. 'The Drama of Mediumship' by W. H. Salter.  
 10 Dec. 'The First International Conference of Parapsychological Studies' by Denys Parsons.

### GENERAL MEETING

(open to Members of the Society and to the public)

- 28 Oct. Presidential Address by Professor F. J. M. Stratton, D.S.O., F.R.S.

### SUBJECTS WANTED FOR A NEW ESP EXPERIMENT

Mr Fisk has begun a new series of trials in an attempt to discover correlations between a subject's scores and the 'mood' he happens to be in at the time he is making his guesses. A subject's 'moods', although related to, are not the same thing as what we term his 'personality'. The latter is more or less permanent; the former are often very changeable. The experimenter displays three Clock cards on the wall of his study and subjects are asked to guess their value and to record, by means of a pre-arranged code, their dominant 'mood' at the time they make their guesses. The cards are changed every day, in a randomized order, by the experimenter.

As it will be necessary to accumulate a large mass of data if any definite correlations are to come to light, Mr Fisk would welcome additional participants. The experiment will take up very little of a subject's time—about five minutes each day at any hour that happens to be convenient—but each subject is asked to agree to continue the daily guessing for a period of two or three months, making a minimum of 192 trials in all. Anyone willing to co-operate is asked to communicate direct with Mr G. W. Fisk, 6 Ditton Grange Close, Ditton Hill, Surrey, who will gladly supply full particulars.



## THE INVESTIGATION OF SPONTANEOUS CASES BY MEMBERS

WE wish to amplify the passage in the Annual Report about the investigation by members of haunts, poltergeists, and other spontaneous cases.

If a case is reported to the Society with a request to send an investigator an Officer takes charge of the inquiry whenever circumstances permit. But often this is not possible, and in that event some member living in the neighbourhood and familiar with this type of inquiry is asked by the Officers to investigate for the Society.

There are also cases which come to the notice of members privately and which they may wish to investigate for themselves. Reports of such cases can be a source of valuable information to the Society. The value is likely to be enhanced if at an early stage they consult one of the Officers, who will probably be able to make helpful suggestions as to the problems, material and psychological, likely to be encountered, and the best way of meeting them. As the Annual Report emphasises, the psychological situation is often one of great delicacy, particularly in cases of a poltergeist nature.

Unless it is otherwise agreed with an Officer of the Society, members investigating cases should be careful to avoid giving the impression that they are acting on behalf of the S.P.R. The Society might be placed in an awkward position if difficulties should arise with the household where the phenomena occurred, and the Society were through misapprehension supposed to be in charge of investigation.

Interesting cases sometimes come to our notice through the newspapers, which often consult the Society's Officers. It has, however, been found advisable not to discuss current investigations with newspaper representatives. Publicity can embarrass or distress the household, can hamper the investigator in his work, and can discourage others from reporting cases to the Society. Further, newspaper representatives, who rarely have a detailed knowledge of our subject, can, although writing in good faith, give a misleading impression of psychical research and of the Society if its name is mentioned. This misconception may be aggravated by the almost inevitable cutting and sub-editing which is done in newspaper offices. Members asked by the Officers of the S.P.R. to investigate on its behalf or conducting inquiries on their own account are therefore requested to exercise extreme discretion if relations with the Press should arise.

W. H. SALTER  
DENYS PARSONS  
*Joint Hon. Secretaries*

## OBITUARY

WE regret to record the death in December of the Rev. W. S. Irving who joined the Society in 1919 and was one of the most constant sitters with Mrs Osborne Leonard in the years following the first World War. His first sitting with her was on 25 January 1921 and is reported in the *Journal*, Vol. XX. Records of several other of his Leonard sittings have been

printed both in the *Journal* and *Proceedings*, and particular attention may be called to the paper that he and Mr Besterman contributed to Vol. XL of *Proceedings*. In addition to communications of the traditional type, various forms of test, including book tests and newspaper tests, figure largely in his sittings. The nature of book tests is sufficiently familiar to readers of the *Journal*, but it may be said that in newspaper tests Mr Irving claimed that information was given him at a sitting recording a passage to be found in a particular place in a particular issue of a newspaper. In this type of test, in particular, it is obvious that there is a very wide field for speculative interpretation. Mr Irving, however, was aware of this danger, and if he did not always avoid it he at any rate took infinite pains to verify the messages he received at his sittings. He took an active part in the discussions of the Society, and was an effective speaker.

In the same month the Society lost one of its oldest members, Mr George P. Bidder, who joined the Society in 1884 and who was the third of his name to achieve distinction. His grandfather was one of the most famous 'calculating boys' and retained this faculty into adult life when he was well known as an engineer and as an expert witness in cases connected with engineering. His father, G. P. Bidder, Q.C., joined the Society in 1883 and was a member of Council for several years. He also was a 'calculating boy', and often in his professional career gave proof of the retention of this power. The case of these two Bidders is notable both for the retention of the power into adult life, which does not always happen, and for its being transmitted to a second and apparently in the case of some members of the family to a third generation. Our late member however did not possess this power. He was well known for his studies in marine biology and for his skill in designing apparatus of use in that line of research.

We also regret to record the death, in January 1954, of Count Perovsky-Petrovo-Solovovo. Count Perovsky, an Honorary Member of the Society, was especially interested in physical phenomena, and conducted many investigations in this field. An Obituary Notice will be printed in a later issue.

## THE MISS NEWTON FUND

The Miss Newton Fund referred to in the Auditors' Report on p. ix was raised in August 1949 by contributions from various personal friends of Miss Isabel Newton, who had been Secretary of the Society for many years, in order to provide comforts for her during her last illness. At the time of her death in February 1950 there remained unexpended an amount of £73 8s. 10d. The friends who had contributed to the Fund were consulted as to the disposal of this balance, and agreed that it should be retained in the hands of Miss Jephson and Mrs W. H. Salter, who had collected the Fund, as trustees to be applied at their discretion for the benefit of other persons who had given the Society long service. No part of the Fund was derived from moneys belonging to the Society.

## MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

- 488th    6 Nov. 1953    Chairman : The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.  
489th    9 Jan. 1954    Chairman : Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

## MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

- 262nd    Wednesday, 28 October 1953, at 6.30 p.m.    Presidential Address : 'Psychical Research : a Lifelong Interest' by Professor F. J. M. Stratton, F.R.S.  
263rd    Wednesday, 18 November 1953, at 6.30 p.m.    Mr W. H. Salter : 'The Drama of Mediumship'.  
264th    Thursday, 10 December 1953, at 6.30 p.m.    The International Conference of Parapsychological Studies. By Mr Denys Parsons.  
265th    Thursday, 28 January 1954, at 6.30 p.m.    Mr D. G. Spencer Brown : 'The Logic of Statistical Significance'.

## NEW MEMBERS

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 6 November 1953)*

- BEACHAM, Mrs J. M., 1 Dinsdale Gardens, New Barnet, Herts.  
BEDBROOK, G. S., 14 Queensborough Terrace, London, W.2.  
BERGMAN, Professor Hugo, 51 Ramban Road, Jerusalem, Israel.  
BURLEY, R. W., M.Sc., Ph.D., National Chemical Research Laboratory Pretoria, South Africa.  
CARTTER, A. M., Ph.D., 1208 Dwire Place, Durham, North Carolina, U.S.A.  
CRANFIELD, A. S., 91 Dartmouth Road, Ruislip, Middx.  
CROOKALL, R., D.Sc., Ph.D., 66 Langley Road, Chippenham, Wilts.  
HANSON, B.L., B.S., Hackensack, Minnesota, U.S.A.  
HARRIES, G., The Rectory, East Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex.  
HEBB, Mrs B., B.A., 23 Amherst Avenue, Ealing, London, W.13.  
JEWELL, W. R. T., Lynwood, Crofton Lane, Orpington, Kent.  
MEREDITH, D. E. A., 39 Church Hill, Loughton, Essex.  
MITTON, A. R., 13 Alexandra Court, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.  
NARAIN, N., New Blyth Cottage, Naini Tal, U.P., India.  
NEL, L. H., Komatipoort, South Africa.  
QUILEZ, A. T., Calle 21 No. 661, Esq. A. (Vedado), Havana, Cuba.  
SCHAEFER, Dr HANS, Akademiestr. 3, Heidelberg, Germany.  
SHIVANANJAPPA, H. R., Park Road, Hassan P.O., Mysore, S. India.  
SLATER, Mrs J. A., 26 Trevor Square, London, S.W.7.  
SPROULL, R., 24 Newton Court, Kensington Church Street, London, W.8.  
THORNTON, J., Ffynnonwen, Pant-y-Bwlch, Newcastle-Emlyn, Carmar.   
TURNER, FRANCIS.

MEMBERS

*(Elected 9 January 1954)*

- BOOTH, E., B.Sc., 29 Walton Road, Sidcup, Kent.  
CULLING, W. E. H., M.Sc., 22 Orchard Close, New Denham, Uxbridge,  
Middx.  
DEWAR, J. B., M.B., F.R.C.S., Netherwood Bank, Dumfries.  
GOODCHILD, R. B., 36 Westfield Avenue, Saunterstead, Surrey.  
GORE, ROBERT, Thurso, Shore Road, Lr. Greenisland, Belfast, N.  
Ireland.  
GOSSET, THOROLD, LL.M., 136 Chesterton Road, Cambridge.  
HODSON, F., Glendower, Newcastle Drive, The Park, Nottingham.  
LASCELLES, Rt. Hon. Sir ALAN F., Stable Yard, St. James's Palace,  
London, S.W. 1.  
ROOKE, Mrs L. A., 344 Minster Road, Sheppey, Sheerness, Kent.  
SCOTT-ROSS, Rev. M. W., The Manse of Maryculter, Milltimber,  
Kincardineshire.  
SUDRE, RENÉ, 21 Rue Pierre-Nicole, Paris, Ve., France.  
YOUNG, D., B.A., 47 Cranbrook Park, Wood Green, London, N.22.





# Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square · London · WC1

## SUPPLEMENT

TO

## JOURNAL

July-October 1954, Vol. 37, No. 681

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, on Wednesday, 28 April 1954, at 3 p.m., under the chairmanship of the President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the Meeting, the Report of the Council and the Accounts were presented. After a discussion in which Mr E. R. Brown, Mr D. Chester, Dr E. J. Dingwall, Mr W. H. Salter, and Mr P. S. Seward took part, the Hon. Secretary, Mr Salter, moved the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, which was seconded by Admiral Strutt and carried unanimously.

Mr W. G. Roll gave an account of the experiments at Oxford in which he is using hypnosis, and card experiments with subjects who are given personality tests.

The Chairman announced that there were no candidates for election to membership of the Council other than the six members who retired by rotation and who offered themselves for re-election, and on the proposal of Mr Salter, seconded by Mr D. Chesters, the following six members were accordingly elected: Mrs Oliver Gatty, Dr S. G. Soal, Professor F. J. M. Stratton, Dr R. H. Thouless, Dr D. J. West, and Dr R. Wilson. On the proposal of Admiral Strutt, seconded by Mr P. S. Seward, Messrs Miall, Harper & Co. were re-elected Auditors for the forthcoming year.

### MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Meetings of the Council were held as follows:

490th	5 Mar. 1954	Chairman: Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.
491st	13 Apl. 1954	Chairman: The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.
492nd	28 Apl. 1954	Chairman: The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.
493rd	28 Apl. 1954	Chairman: The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.

At the meeting of the Council held on 13 April 1954 the following co-optations to the Council were renewed for the year: Mr G. W. Fisk, the Hon. Mrs C. H. Gay, Professor A. C. Hardy, Mr J. Fraser Nicol,

Mr A. T. Oram, Mr Edward Osborn, Mr K. E. Shelley, and the Hon. Charles Strutt.

At the meeting of the Council held immediately after the Annual General Meeting on 28 April 1954 the following were elected :

#### PRESIDENT

Professor F. J. M. Stratton, D.S.O., F.R.S.

#### HONORARY OFFICERS

Hon. Treasurer : Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

Hon. Secretaries : Mr W. H. Salter, M.A.

Mr Denys Parsons, M.Sc.

#### COMMITTEES

*Finance Committee:* Mrs Goldney, Lord Charles Hope, Mr G. W. Lambert, Mr A. T. Oram, and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt (*Convener*).

*House Committee:* Mrs K. M. Goldney (*Convener*), Miss I. Jephson, Mr Edward Osborn, Mr W. H. Salter, and Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt.

*Physical Phenomena, Poltergeists and Haunts Committee: Investigating panel for:* The Hon. Mrs C. H. Gay, Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mrs Frank Heywood, Lord Charles Hope, Mr E. Osborn, Admiral the Hon. A. C. Strutt, the Hon. Charles Strutt, Mr G. W. Lambert, and Professor F. J. M. Stratton (*Convener*), and Dr R. Wilson.

*Publicity Committee:* Mr E. Osborn, Mr D. Parsons (*Convener*), and Mr R. W. S. Pollard.

*Research Committee:* Mr G. W. Fisk, Mrs K. M. Goldney, Mr E. Osborn, Mr D. Parsons, Dr S. G. Soal, and Dr D. J. West (*Convener*).

*Library Committee:* Dr E. J. Dingwall (*Convener*), Mrs Goldney, Mr A. T. Oram, and Mr E. Osborn.

#### CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Mrs E. W. Allison

Dr T. N. E. Greville

Dr C. G. Jung

Rudolf Lambert

Dr J. B. Rhine

Dr W. H. C. Tenhaeff

Mr Carl Vett

Dr Th. Wereide

Monsieur Gabriel Marcel

Professor C. J. Ducasse

Dr G. H. Hyslop

Count von Klinckowstroem

Professor Gardner Murphy

Dr A. Tanagras

Dr R. Tischner

Monsieur R. Warcollier

Dr Chr. Winther

#### HONORARY ASSOCIATES

Mrs Whately Carington

Dr G. de Boni

Miss M. Phillimore

Mr Basil Shackleton

Miss Nea Walker

Miss Carruthers

Mr G. W. Fisk

Mrs K. Richmond

Mr G. H. Spinney

Mrs L. A. Dale

Dr B. Humphrey

Prof. C. M. Sage

Dr R. H. Thouless

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

(excluding books reviewed in the *Journal*)

- CARRINGTON, HEReward. *Mysterious Psychic Phenomena*. Boston, U.S.A., Christopher Publishing House, 1954. 176 pp.
- CARRINGTON, HEReward. *The American Seances with Eusapia Palladino*. New York, Garrett Publications, 1954. viii, 273 pp.
- FODOR, NANDOR. *The Search for the Beloved. A Clinical Investigation of the Trauma of Birth and Pre-natal Conditioning*. New York, Hermitage Press, 1949. viii, 400 pp.
- GORDON, HIRSCH LOEB. *The Maggid of Caro*. New York, Pardes Publishing House, The Shoulson Press, 1949. 396 pp. Illus.
- HOPKINS, R. THURSTON. *Ghosts Over England*. London, Meridian Books, 1953. 193 pp. Illus.
- HUXLEY, ALDOUS. *The Doors of Perception*. London, Chatto & Windus, 1954. 63 pp.
- JONES, ERNEST. *Sigmund Freud: Life and Work. Volume I. The Young Freud 1856-1900*. London, Hogarth Press, 1953. xvi, 454 pp.
- JUNG, C. G. *Von den Wurzeln des Bewusstseins. Studien über den Archetypus*. Zürich, Rascher Verlag, 1954. x, 681 pp. Illus.
- LAVER, JAMES. *Nostradamus*. Harmondsworth, Middlesex, Penguin Books, 1952. (First published 1942.) 265 pp.
- SMITH, ALSON J. *Immortality—The Scientific Evidence*. New York, Prentice-Hall, 1954. 248 pp.
- WHITE, STEWART EDWARD. *The Road I Know*. New York, Dutton, 1954. 253 pp.
- WILKINSON, ARTHUR. *Spiritualism on Trial*. London, Regency Press, 1953. 224 pp. Illus.

## DESIDERATA

The Society has in the Library Vols. 1 and 2 of Lynn Thorndike's *A History of Magic and Experimental Science during the first Thirteen Centuries of our Era*, published New York 1923, and is anxious to complete the set of six volumes. We should be glad to hear from any member who may have Vols. 3-6 (inclusive), or any one of them, for disposal.

## MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

*Held at 31 Tavistock Square*

- 266th Thursday, 4 March 1954, at 6.30 p.m. Mr J. M. Thorburn :  
'Has Psychical Research any concern with Astrology?'
- 267th Thursday, 8 April 1954, at 6.30 p.m. Dr G. D. Wassermann:  
'A Field Theory of Parapsychology'.
- 268th Thursday, 20 May 1954, at 6.30 p.m. Professor C. A. Mace:  
'Supernormal Faculty and the Concept of Mind'.



## NEW MEMBERS

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 5 March 1954)*

- BOX, D. S., B.Sc., 63 Warwick Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.  
BOYER, F. A., 37 Rue du Ranelagh, Paris XVI, France.  
BRIDGER, P. R., B.Sc., 37 Beresford Avenue, Whetstone, London, N.20.  
COX, Rev. DAVID, M.A., 14 Church Row, Chislehurst, Kent.  
DUCASSE, Prof. C. J., Brown University, Providence 12, Rhode Island, U.S.A.  
ELWELL, H. V. W., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Park House, Hellingly Hospital, Hailsham, Sussex.  
HIGGS, Mrs D., Richmond, St Sampsons, Guernsey, C.I.  
MACLELLAN, A. W., M.A., Hill House, Inverness.  
MARRIAN, D. H., M.Sc., Ph.D., 244 Hills Road, Cambridge.  
MARS, Dr LOUIS, Topeka State Hospital, Topeka, Kansas, U.S.A.  
METHERINGHAM, R. A., B.Sc., 5 Gallwey Avenue, Birchington, Kent.  
MONEY-COUTTS, The Hon. HUGO, 1 South Eaton Place, London, S.W.1.  
MONTGOMERY, Mrs J., 3 Plewlands Gardens, Edinburgh, 10.  
OGDEN, R., M.A., 17 Oakeshott Avenue, Highgate, London, N.10  
ROBINSON, A. CLARE, Roppelegh's, nr Haslemere, Surrey.  
ROBINSON, R. L., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 8 Bronwen Court, Grove End Road, London, N.W.8.  
THOMPSON, Mrs. R., Oak Hayes, Crewkerne, Somerset.  
VALKHOFF, Prof. Dr M., University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
VON ARNIM, E., 244 Hills Road, Cambridge.  
WOLSEY, Rev. Dr W. FRANKLIN, 1994 Odgen Avenue, Vancouver, Canada.

### *Student-Associates*

- IRLAM, L. P., 19 Parkhurst Road, West Derby, Liverpool 11.  
MUMFORD, R. F., 102 Balfour Road, Ilford, Essex.  
RUMSEY, J. C. V., Wheatfield, The Promenade, Neyland, Milford Haven, Pems.  
WATTERSON, G. A., 22 Avenel Road, Kooyong S.E.4, Victoria, Australia.

### MEMBERS

*(Elected 13 April 1954)*

- CHERNIACK, L., M.D., Frederickton Apts., Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.  
JOY, SIR GEORGE A., K.B.E., C.M.G., Sloane Avenue Mansions, London, S.W.3.  
LLOYD, P., Oberland, Victoria Road, Gt Malvern, Worcs.  
MIKINA, S. J., 173 Spring Grove Road, Pittsburgh 35, Pa., U.S.A.

MORIARTY, D. F., 45 Daniels Road, Birmingham 9.

PICKARD, Miss P. M., M.A., 72 Howards Lane, London, S.W.15.

THIBODEAU, P. H., 1047 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston 15, Mass.,  
U.S.A.

THORNLEY, B. G., Post Box 24, Colombo, Ceylon.

WOODMANSEE, B., 60 Kensington Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

WOOKEY, E. E., L.D.S., R.C.S., 19 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

*Student-Associate*

BINKS, D., 2 Sutherland Mount, Harehills, Leeds 9, Yorks.

MEMBERS

*(Elected 28 April 1954)*

BENNETT, Mrs E. Y. K., Aldborough, Mulberry Lane, Worthing,  
Sussex.

DENTON, M. V. H., M.R.C.P., L.R.C.P., Alexandra House, Stanmore,  
Middx.

GREEN, J. H. S., B.Sc., Ph.D., 53 Thicket Road, Sutton, Surrey.

LIBRARIAN, LAKE ERIE COLLEGE, Painesville, Ohio, U.S.A.

WHITTLE, G. T., 74 Cyprus Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham.

*Student-Associate*

KNEESHAW, D. H., 33 Abbey Road, Gt Malvern, Worcs.

BACK NUMBERS AVAILABLE

There are some numbers of the *Journal* and *Proceedings* available between the years of 1889—1950. Apply Miss Johnson, Prospect, Blanford Road, Reigate, Surrey.









# Society for Psychical Research

31 Tavistock Square · London · WC 1

## SUPPLEMENT

TO

## JOURNAL

November-December 1954, Vol. 37, No. 682

FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES

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### MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Meetings of the Council were held as follows :

- 494th 2 June 1954 Chairman : The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.  
495th 11 Aug. 1954 Chairman : The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.  
496th 15 Oct. 1954 Chairman : The President, Professor F. J. M. Stratton.

### MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

*Held at 31 Tavistock Square*

- 269th Thursday, 17 June 1954, at 6.30 p.m. Dr Louis Rose :  
'A Preliminary Study of the Claims of "Healers".'  
270th Thursday, 23 September 1954, at 6.30 p.m. Question Time.  
A demonstration of stage telepathy by Mr Jack Salvin,  
followed by a Brains Trust.  
271st Friday, 8 October 1954, at 6.30 p.m. Mr Francis Huxley :  
'Spirits and Shamans in Brazil'.

### NEW MEMBERS

MEMBERS

*(Elected 2 June 1954)*

- AGNEW, MRS HARVEY, 17 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto, Ont., Canada.  
CRUSO, F. J. A., M.A., Hawtrey House, Eton College, Windsor, Berks.  
DAVIES, J., 11 MacLagan Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.  
DE DADELSEN, J-P., Centre Européen de la Culture, Villa Moynier,  
122 Rue de Lausanne, Geneva, Switzerland.  
GAULD, A. O., Emmanuel College, Cambridge.  
GEBSER, J., Pestalozzistr. 2, Burgdorf (Kt. Bern), Switzerland.

KISH, Miss F., 400 East 57th Street, New York 22, N.Y., U.S.A.

PHILLIPS, Major S. E. L., M.A., Ivy House, Benson, Oxon.

SEWILL, BRENDON S., B.A., Staggers Avon, Charlwood, Surrey.

SPEARMAN, Mrs D., 7 Lord North Street, London, S.W. 1.

*Student-Associate*

Ball, Peter J., 11 Nevill Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

MEMBERS

*(Elected 11 August 1954)*

BROOKES, Lady, C.B.E., 206 Domain Road, S. Yarra, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

BUHRMANN, Dr M. VERA, Box 234, Pretoria, South Africa.

CAMPBELL-SMITH, R., 14 Templand Garth, Allithwaite, Grange-over-Sands, Lancs.

COLE, Rev A. B., Eldon Mount, 17 Stephens Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

DUNSFORD, Mrs M. G., 33 Baddlesmere Road, Tankerton-on-Sea, Kent.

DYER, Mrs I., 139 Morley Hill, Enfield, Middlesex.

GARDNER, A., M.B., Ch.B., 'Dorothy', Knightscroft Avenue, Rustington, Sussex.

HEYWOOD, C.B.M., M.A., c/o National Provincial Bank, 42 Leicester Square, London, W.C. 2.

HUGHES, BOLAND, M.D., 1323 Medical Arts Building, 16th & Walnut Streets, Philadelphia 2, Pa., U.S.A.

LIBRARIAN, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.

LIBRARIAN, THOMAS SUGRUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, Wainwright House, Milton Point, Rye, N.Y., U.S.A.

MEYER, RICHARD, M.R.C.P., D.P.M., 137 Fellows Road, London, N.W. 3.

NORTON, Sir CLIFFORD, K.C.M.G., 21A Carlyle Square, London, S.W. 3.

PAUL, P., 158 White Hart Lane, Wood Green, London, N. 22.

QUICK, F. C., 6 Fitzwilliam Ave., Kew Gardens, Kew, Surrey.

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